



*Sanford University* Entre Nous  
2008 - 2009 Vol. 39













**E**ach year at Samford University, opportunities for experience, exposure and enlightenment are prevalent in both the everyday occurrences, as well as the major significant events. The theme "Grow" was chosen for this year's edition to capture the growth that students, faculty and staff experience throughout their time here. As a Southern Baptist Christian University, we believe in the sovereignty and provision of our Creator, and we delight in knowing that our experiences here are for His glory and our good.

Entre Nous is French for "Between Us," and as one body, the Samford Community supports each other in striving for spiritual, mental, physical and emotional growth...

For God, For learning, Forever.

*Grow* in the grace and knowledge  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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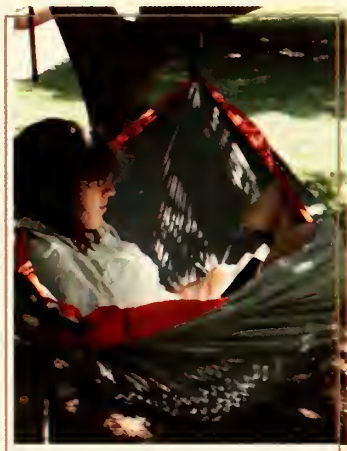
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The staff of *Entre Nous* seeks to provide documentation of a year in the life of the Samford Community. This culmination of pictures, stories and quotations are more than just mere images and words; rather, the book is meant to draw upon the deeper meaning and remembrance of the sequence of events that were instrumental in the growth of students, faculty and staff that occurred throughout the year.

Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability or national or ethnic origin.

# Editors



Pictured clockwise

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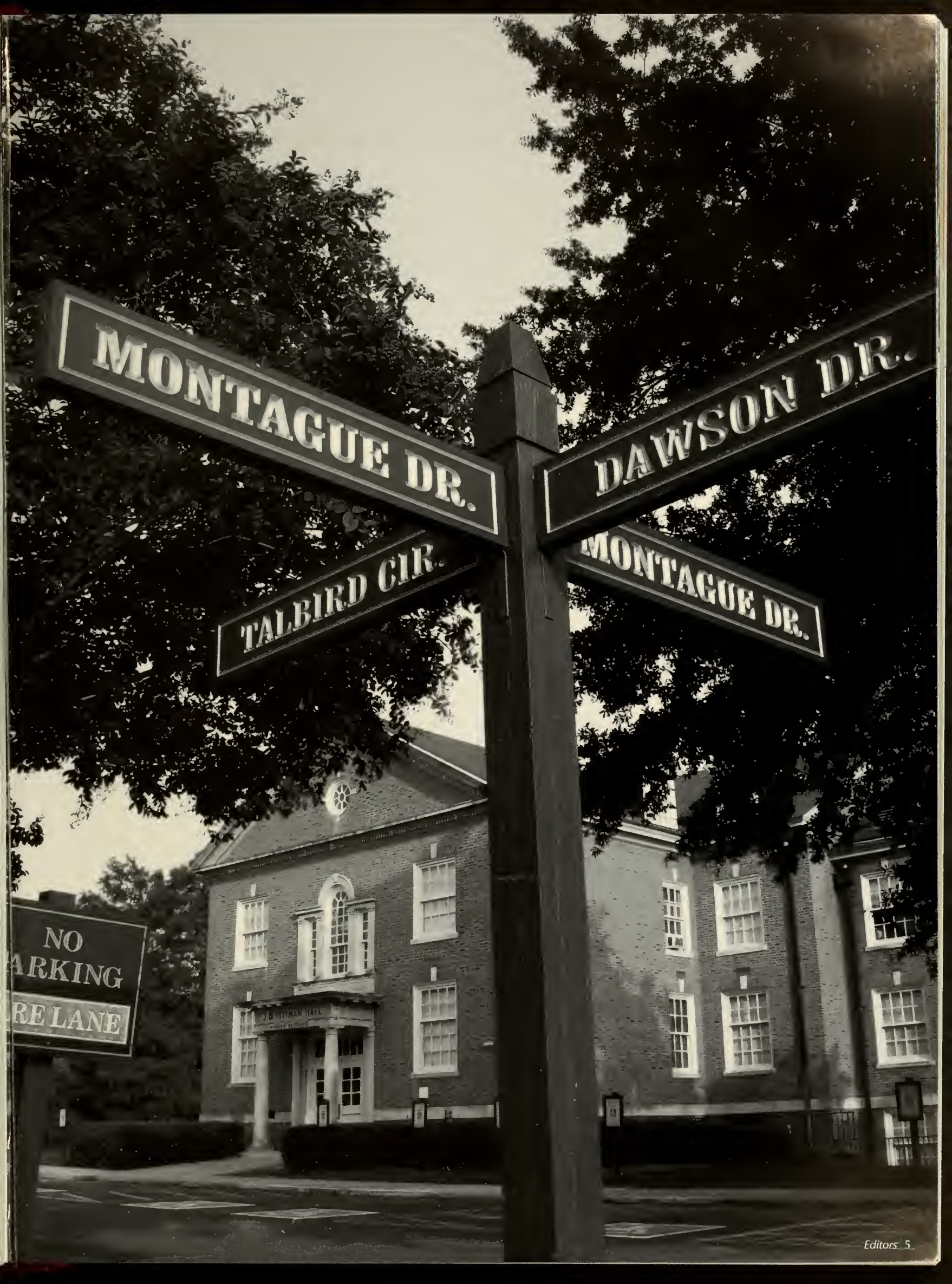
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Relevant: Lindsey Vaughan

Greek Life: Megan Christians & Melissa Gibson

Sports: Lauren Sharp & Matt Westberry

Seniors: Amy Grace Robertson

## Letter from the Editor:

What a year it's been! The 2008-09 school year was full of many changes for Samford. With the transition into the Southern Conference, the building projects on campus and initiatives put into action by the SGA and Dr. Westmoreland, it is evident that Samford is headed in the right direction. As a senior and editor-in-chief of *Entre Nous*, I have done a lot of reflecting on this year, not only upon the conclusion, but throughout both fall and spring semesters.

One friend told me that as a senior entering into a life-transitioning stage, I am prone to being in a constant state of reflection. But I believe that we are called to step back and reflect at all stages and seasons of our lives. The Lord uses His Word to lead, change and grow us into the disciples that we are called to be, and if we run through this life without reflecting on what it is and has been, we will miss so much of the intricate details that He has fashioned in and for us.

*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

So I pray that this book serves as memoir for you. I pray that you take the time to look through it and reflect on how each picture and written story relates to your experience at Samford this year. Use these pages as a catalyst to lead you to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:8) as you consider all He has done in you and the way that He has used Samford to grow you in Him.

In Christ,

Val Kikkert





Photograph: Jane Cunningham







The background of the page is a photograph of a green lawn with trees and a building. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.

# Samford Life

**T**he two words put together, "Samford" and "Life," penetrate deeper when the values and depth behind the University are applied. Let us remember that Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (Luke 10:10). In Christ we are promised a full life, and in Christ we are brought to fullness (John 10:10; Colossians 2:9-10).

With the University holding this Christ-centered core, events, activities and general student life at Samford provide an encouraging environment that distinguishes Samford as a community. From Homecoming in the fall to Step Sing in the spring, students are constantly given opportunities to bond as one body with many parts and to live fully under this common bond of Christ.

Life at Samford extends beyond the calendar year, and experiences had throughout each year help to define the *fullness* of life.





Photos clockwise from above: Freshmen break down dancing comfort barriers at the 90s Dance. The "Ice cream with Andy" event was a success this year. Students had the opportunity to meet President Westmoreland and be entertained through access to various games.



# It Starts with a Handshake

## Connections

**O**n August 21, Jenn Debrecht, a member of the class of 2012, unloaded her car and moved into her dorm room. Bringing a multitude of emotions and questions, she scurried about the residence hall, unloaded boxes and arranged furniture. However, when it was time for her family to return to Boca Raton, Fla., her official life as a college student began, and it all started with Connections.

Connections is exactly like its definition; its purpose is to link one thing with another, or in this case, it helps freshmen adapt to life at Samford. It is a four-day process that includes things like informational meetings, tours and social events.

When the reality of college hits, it can be very overwhelming. A student not only has to adjust to living independently but also to living in new surroundings with complete strangers. The goal of Connections is to provide a smooth transition into this new environment, while acquainting the freshmen class with their peers.

"Connections is the beginning, and we want them to get a chance to experience Samford within their class and connect with each other," senior Connections leader and sociology major Barbara Wilson said.

Being almost 13 hours away from Boca Raton, Debrecht was eager to make friends and feel at home.

"This is my home for the next four years, and I was excited to finally be here," Debrecht said. "But I never thought that it would be so overwhelming."

Most do not realize how hard the new changes are that come with being a freshman. Luckily, however, there are students who know exactly what freshmen are going through. Upperclassmen are the key to the Connections process. They are not only there to be leaders, but to also to serve as guides in the college life transition.

"You just want to tell them, 'You're about to find yourself. Get ready, buckle up, and you might want to sit down for this,'" Wilson said.

Once the initial shock wears off, the secret of Connections is revealed. This secret is commonly known as Play Fair. Play Fair is recognized for breaking down every awkward barrier that comes with meeting people. Led by a lady in spandex and tights, its purpose is to allow freshmen to meet as many people as possible in very unusual ways.

"Play Fair was insanely awkward, but not," Debrecht said. "It's crazy to think that running around dancing very close to strangers would be so much fun!"



It is famous for the Play Fair handshake. Consisting of a high five, then low five, then a nice "shake, shake, shake" of the foot, it is known by all who participate in the Connections process. Then again, Play Fair itself is the most popular aspect of Connections.

"At Play Fair you meet someone, tell them your name, shake their hand and you ponder if this could be your future best friend or spouse," Wilson said.

This part of Connections is about helping to link the freshmen class together and meeting as many people as possible. Many freshmen are uneasy about meeting new people and asserting themselves into conversations, and Play Fair is designed to break down those walls.

Connections is not just a process that freshmen go through, but it's also a stepping stone to their college experience. It is a way for freshmen to get a vast amount of information in a short amount of time. Connections' role is to provide a smooth transition for all incoming freshmen, and to jump-start the school year.

"I don't know how I would have adjusted without Connections," Debrecht said. "It has played a vital and important role in starting off of my college life."

Story: Elizabeth Gettys  
Layout: Carol Anne Autry  
Photographs: Julian Hollar



# A Timely **Kick-off** to the Semester

## Welcome Back Week



**T**he pattern prevalent in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 was given its own Samford spin to get students excited about coming back to campus in the fall.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die...a time to weep, and a time to laugh...a time for war, and a time for peace," (Eccle. 3:1-8).

These words were reflected in Samford's Welcome Back Week 2008 "It's Your Time" schedule of events. A Time to Reunite, a Time to Chill, a Time to Rock, a Time to Eat, a Time to Cheer and a Time to Doodle. Each day of the first week of classes, Sunday night through Friday afternoon, featured a different event. Unfortunately, a "Time to Reunite," also known as the treasured pastime Dinner on the Dirt, was held indoors for the second consecutive year due to rain. The Caf served up Sunday night dinner while students talked with friends they hadn't seen for months, but many students were disappointed about eating with a roof over their heads.

"First of all, it was not on the dirt for the second year in a row, and second, it rained for the second year in a row," junior English major Alan Halbrooks said.

Mother Nature refused to cooperate Monday night as well, so

the "Time to Chill" movie on the Quad ended up being shown on a pull-down screen in the Caf. While watching Harrison Ford making a comeback as the courageous whip-wielding, signature hat-wearing Jones in *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, students were enjoying free soft drinks and fresh popcorn.

Tuesday's "Time to Rock" band party in Pete Hanna Center was a concert with Fly-By-Radio, who perfumed classic rock covers with enthusiasm while wearing leather pants and sporting big hair that had been generously doused with hairspray. Although the flashing stage lights shone only for a small number of concert-goers, those few who were in attendance enjoyed nodding along to the music.

"There were actually a decent amount of people there," first-year pharmacy student Whitney Cowart said. "I think the size of the arena made the group look smaller."

Students were perhaps the most excited about a "Time to Eat" on Wednesday morning, as the event entailed free Chick-fil-A chicken biscuits on the library steps. In this case, the early student got the chicken, as many students walked away empty-handed toward the end because the demand was so high.

However, no attendees missed out the next day. The Welcome Back committee pulled out all the stops for Thursday's a "Time to Cheer" football

tailgate party at Talbird Circle before the team's first home game against West Georgia. The crowd enjoyed inflatable toys, tennis and bowling by Nintendo Wii and free Qdoba food while listening to the pop/rock sounds of the Nashville-native band The Four Kicks, who performed live.

Rounding out the week's events was Friday afternoon's a "Time to Doodle" at Ben Brown Plaza. The word "doodle" was taken as a double meaning, both as a drawing and as an icy treat from Doodles Sorbets and Ices in Cahaba Heights. Atlanta artist Anthony Stewart drew caricature portraits as a long line of students waited for their turn while eating cups of eccentrically flavored sorbet.

"I thought it was pretty tasty," first-year pharmacy student Kay Shaw said.

Samford never fails to make sure the students are aware of their significant and valued presence on campus upon return from summer break, and this year was no exception.

Story: Lydia Hignite

Layout: Carol Anne Autry

Photographs: Jordan Jarvis





Photos counter clock-wise from left: Inclement weather forced the showing of *Indiana Jones* to the Caf, but students were still able to enjoy the movie and popcorn. Red and Blue mouths were seen walking from Ben Brown Plaza after students enjoyed a taste of "Doodles."




"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ..."





# A Home Away From Home

## Dorm Life



For some, dorm life isn't exactly the most enjoyable experience that college students go through in their undergraduate years. However, living in the dorms can provide some of the most invaluable and memorable times of our lives. Roommates can become some of the closest friends. Learning to study through the pounding of the neighbor's blaring music can develop some serious self-determination. Not having mom to clean your room forces new responsibilities and a tolerance of "kinda" dirty clothes. But throughout all of the new experiences and lessons learned, the friendships and bonds formed allow students to develop a "home away from home" and a new family of friends.

One of the best examples of this new family is the relationships formed on the halls of Vail, Smith and Pittman. Freshman year can be a really hard time for most, and a lot of adjustments are made with the help of friends on the same hall. Freshman Will Stewart definitely found solace from within the relationships on his hall.

"We watch movies together, eat together, play flag football and play jokes on each other. I'm pretty close to most of the guys on my hall," Stewart said.

Roommates can also be a crucial part of the first-year experience. Learning how to live with someone else in such tight quarters may not always be smooth, but it can provide life-long memories. For Stewart, this is no exception.

"It's awesome because my roommate and I have been best friends since eighth grade, so it's pretty great living with him on a regular basis. I couldn't ask for a better situation. I call Samford my home away from home, and my hall is quickly becoming that as well," Stewart said.

After the first year, the opportunities for dorm life expand. Moving to

Beeson Woods or West Campus means an opportunity to pick a friend made year one for a roommate. This provides an ability to grow even closer with those already considered family. In Beeson, the suite style dorms afford a new experience for entertaining family and friends in an extra common room. Sophomore early childhood education major Kelsey Welch loved living in Beeson Woods.

"Sharing a room with one of my best friends has been such a great experience and has brought us even closer together. It is so different than Vail. Vail was so convenient and right in the middle of everything, and all of my friends were just a couple of doors away, but I love the added amenities of Beeson," Welch said.

The kitchens, personal bathrooms and common rooms are staples of the Beeson buildings.

"I've learned a lot more about sharing, whether it's food, television shows in the common room or the chores we split. It feels just like a family, and we share our own little room," she said.

In West Campus, the friendships are on a different level, because many times roommates are "brothers" and "sisters." The bonds between fraternity and sorority members can deepen so intensely that they contribute to a stronger brotherhood or sisterhood bond for the entire organization. Sophomore sister of Alpha Delta Pi and undeclared major Michelle Darden said she definitely saw the relationships among her Chapter, pledge class and closest friends become tighter after living in the Alpha Delta Pi house.

"If you ever need someone to talk to, you can just go next door and someone who you know genuinely cares for you will always be there," Darden said. "I have definitely formed a deeper relationship with my sisters because they care for me just like my family."





Photos clock-wise from page 16: Students find creative ways to utilize the halls in Beeson Woods. Due to its size and prime location, Vail is often a key hangout spot for freshmen. Girls have easy access to almost all of their friends, and guys are able to visit for some ping-pong competition in the lobby. One of the main benefits in moving to Beeson Woods is the suite-style rooms. Students are able to bring in fountains to complement and add a personal touch to the furnishing in the living suites.

“I’ve learned a lot more about sharing, whether it’s food, television or chores.”

The friendships made and experiences shared while living in the dorms can prove to be life-long memories. Sharing a living space with someone forces students to grow, take new responsibilities and learn to deal with all kinds of people. Despite initial differences, halls in Vail, Smith and Pittman can bring freshmen together and foster bonds that last for life. Beeson allows for a glimpse of life on your own with three of your closest friends in an apartment setting. West Campus brings fraternities and sororities closer together through houses that act as homes for families of brothers and sisters. No matter what part of campus on which you’re living, dorms are an essential aspect to the making of a new family of friends during the undergraduate years at a “home away from home.”



Story: Tara White  
Layout: Carol Anne Autry  
Photographs: Stephen Nelson



# VIVE a weekend!

## Weekends at Samford

**T**he weekends are a perfect time to relax, catch up on homework and try out a new restaurant while making friends throughout each activity. Samford is conveniently located in the heart of Homewood, and within minutes of the campus are activities to meet any possible interest.

Many students love to spend free time outdoors. The weekend is the perfect time to go for a jog on the trail across the street, check out the

shopping experience with both indoor and outdoor shopping and several fun and inexpensive restaurant options. It is a perfect atmosphere to enjoy a beautiful day eating outside and walking around the shops.

While shopping may not be for everyone, there are still plenty of other fun activities to fill up weekends at Samford. There are several movie theatres located within close proximity to campus, including the coveted dollar theatre, which shows recent movies. What

a better way to end a great movie than to enjoy a sweet treat at one of the local ice cream shops. Some Samford favorites include Mountain Brook Creamery, TCBY, SoHo Sweets and

Samford students and get plugged in to college life.

"The best way to make the most of your college experience is to take every opportunity to meet new people, explore new places around Birmingham and enjoy the activities Samford offers us," junior nutrition and dietetics major Katie Snider said.

Sororities and fraternities are one avenue Samford students can choose to get involved in on campus. They offer parties and mixers certain weekends out of each semester and prove to be a fun way for Greek members to come together and get a feel for the other Greek organizations on campus.

There are a variety of churches to explore in the area regardless of one's religious background. The churches offer students numerous ways to get plugged in, and many of the opportunities fall on weekends. Whether it's attending a Bible study or helping to teach a Sunday school class for younger children, there is an opportunity to get involved in a congregation somewhere.

Story: Kristen Ottaviano

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Stephen Nelson  
and Jordan Jarvis

quaint and always active parks in downtown Homewood or relax in a hammock with friends on Samford's infamous Quad. Students can also get a team together to play soccer, football or ultimate Frisbee at the intramural fields. Rock climbing at Boulder Fields and a visit to the Botanical Gardens are also outdoor weekend hotspots.

When a break is needed from the routine of the Caf, Birmingham has a plethora of restaurant options, both local and international cuisines. Within striking distance, students can experience the spicy taste of India, indulge in some homemade lasagna tasting straight from Italy or enjoy the sweet and savory taste of Thai cuisine. Dining out is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new friends and enjoy a break from the daily boredom that results from eating in a cafeteria three times a day, seven days a week.

Samford is in the ideal location for all those who love to shop. Across Lakeshore Drive is an upscale

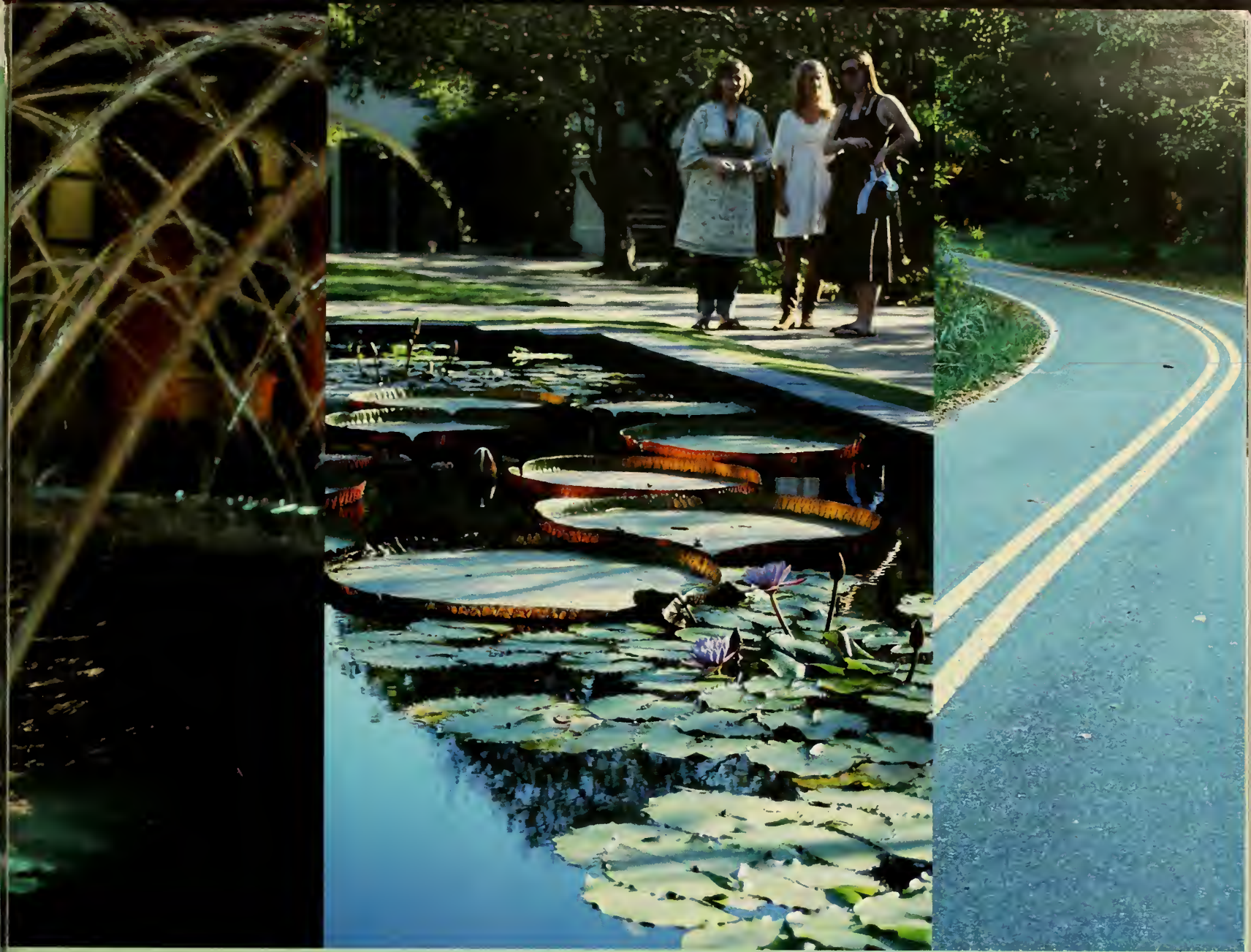
Clumpies.

During the fall semester, there are several weekend activities on campus including Welcome Back Week, Homecoming, Family Weekend, tailgating events before football games, Greek formals and many other opportunities to meet fellow

Take every opportunity to meet new people, explore new places around Birmingham and enjoy the activities Samford offers!











# Bringing the *Roots* to Birmingham

## Family Weekend

**F**amily Weekend 2008 followed in the rich tradition of past years, combining quality family time with exciting activities. Samford students of all ages were able to integrate and introduce their families to life at college. Because of Samford's prime location in beautiful and diverse Birmingham, planning activities for students' parents was not a difficult task. From Friday, October 11 to Sunday, October 12, over 1,000 guests took part in a range of activities from golf at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course to manicures at the Greenhouse Spa at The Summit.

The goal of SGAs Student Activities Council (SAC) was to introduce student families to Samford's campus and give them a taste of the life and excitement that Birmingham offers students on a daily basis.

Family weekend was not only about activities and events. Freshman pre-pharmacy major Courtney Rogers said, "Family Weekend couldn't have come at better time. It was such a relief to see my parents."

Often warding off lingering homesickness that freshmen battle first semester, Family Weekend allows new students quality time with siblings and parents. This is often the reason many

freshmen parents make the trip to Samford. However, many upperclassmen families take advantage of a weekend set aside just for them.

Sophomore religion major Kelly Zimmerman's family drove from Knoxville, Tenn. to visit. "As a sophomore, I was much more involved than freshman year so I appreciated that Samford sets aside a specific time that I could reconnect with my family," Zimmerman said. "All my other weekends were usually so packed. It's nice that they got a chance to come here and experience my life at college."

SAC also worked to make sure that parents had the opportunity to meet and greet with their students' professors and sponsored a dessert reception with the Westmorelands.

The effort was made to connect parents with the social aspect of Samford life as well as their students' academic responsibilities.

This year, Family Weekend overlapped with one of Samford's Preview Days. Throughout the year, Samford opens the campus, providing tours and information sessions for prospective students. As a result, the morning of October 11 dawned to the buzz of a campus preparing for tailgating, the chatter of senior high students and the laughter of siblings and parents.



Families had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of festivities throughout the weekend. Dessert with the Westmorelands (left) and lunch before the football game (right) brought the Samford community and families together.



Later that afternoon, Samford's football team came close to defeating Appalachian State, the reigning Southern Conference champions, with a final score of 35-24. Family Weekend contributed to the third largest crowd to ever in Seibert Stadium.

Organizations all over campus worked together to make sure parents departed the weekend feeling welcomed and involved.

Several sororities and fraternities hosted "family brunches," which allowed freshmen who recently rushed and pledged to a sorority or fraternity to show their parents the house and introduce them to members of their respective Greek affiliation. ROTC also hosted a barbeque at its house to meet and greet with the parents of its participants.

Chris Goree, a business administration major, was the chair of Family Weekend 2008. He said, "It was so much fun to plan Family Weekend this year. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we saw Samford come together as one big family."

To close the exciting weekend of great football, meeting new friends and good ole' southern food, parents had the opportunity to attend the historic Samford Hymn Sing in the beautiful Reid Chapel. This meaningful service reminded students and families that Samford will always stand "For God, For Learning, Forever."



"Family Weekend allows new students quality time with siblings and parents."

Story: Breanne Dalton  
Layout: Sarah Andrews  
Photographs: Stephen Nelson





## Building on Tradition

### Homecoming Weekend

The Beeson statue wore a football helmet, the band played the fight song and the air held a crisp autumn chill. From October 22 - 26, Samford University showed signs of Homecoming 2008 at every turn.

The SGA Student Activities Council (SAC) began celebrating Homecoming early this year, starting Wednesday with hot wings and mechanical bull rides in Ben Brown Plaza. The fun continued on Thursday with an "Iron Man" movie night on the Quad.

The official kickoff to Homecoming came Friday night when students, faculty and alumni gathered at the annual bonfire and pep rally. The event began with the presentation of the 2008 Homecoming Court and kept students entertained for hours thereafter with fireworks, refreshments and Christian rock band Deas Vail.

"The bonfire brought the whole campus together and created an atmosphere of excitement before the festivities on Saturday," communication studies major Natalie Jayne said. "Besides, who doesn't love a bonfire, hot chocolate and a great band?"

Spectators clapped and cheered as the annual Homecoming

Parade progressed through Samford's campus on Saturday. Miss Alabama 2008 Amanda Tapley led the procession, which included the 2008 Homecoming Court, the Samford Marching Band, the University Ministries kazoo band and colorful floats crafted by different campus organizations.

"I really enjoyed being in the parade," pre-pharmacy major and Homecoming Court member Maggie Cravens said. "It's not everyday I get to ride in a Corvette!"

The Phi Mu sorority won the award for best float with its "Sandwich the Citadel" float.

"The girls in this chapter are so deserving of the award," English major Anna Bedsole said. "They demonstrate a high level of commitment and integrity in all their activities, and it's really neat to have that recognized."

Following the parade, students and alumni migrated toward the Quad for the annual Homecoming Festival. The festival offered food, fun and booths for different groups on campus, including several sororities and fraternities, the Samford band and the Air Force ROTC.

By 2 p.m., Samford fans were ready for the big game to begin. The largest homecoming crowd in five years came to watch the Samford football team play its first Homecoming game as a member of the Southern Conference. The Samford Bulldogs beat The Citadel Bulldogs 28-10.

"My favorite part of Homecoming was the game itself, hands down," said Nathan Troost, a journalism and mass communication major. "I enjoyed watching Samford serve a good Southern Conference team a loss in front of a loud and supportive crowd."

Other sporting events that took place during the weekend included men and women's basketball scrimmages and two victorious Bulldog volleyball games against Elon and UNC-Greensboro.

Homecoming 2008 came to a close on Sunday with the Samford Family Worship Service held in A. Gerow Hodges Chapel. Samford professor Jim Barnette and alumnus Greg Steele led the service, which also included worship leadership by the University Ministries choir and other Samford alumni and students.

Story: Lauren Womack

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Julian Hollar & Stephen Nelson







# More than a *Crown*

## Homecoming Court

As the band played and the crowd cheered, the 2008 Homecoming Court waited anxiously on the ever-perfect turf of Seibert Stadium. Emily Gettys, senior nursing major from Alexander City, Ala., was named Samford's 2008 Homecoming Queen and was joined by Honor Escort Billy Gunter, senior music major from West Palm Beach, Fla.

When asked what the honor meant to her personally, Gettys said that she viewed it as a blessing. "Throughout my life, I felt like the average Joe, a face in the crowd playing second fiddle," Gettys said. "And suddenly the Lord said, 'Surprise!! This is how much you mean to me. What you are doing, people remember. You are having an impact on others' lives, just like they have impacted you. So I am giving you this honor, one you would have never thought about wanting.'"

Gunter gained a new appreciation for Homecoming. "I got to be a part of something that I had never been a part of before," he said. "I got to represent my senior class and I thought that was really cool."

Both Gettys and Gunter expressed surprise after the initial nomination. With names of other friends and respected students on the ballot, neither representative imagined that they would remain a candidate until the final round. "To be honest, when I found out that I was nominated for Homecoming Court, I was a little bit surprised. I decided to go online and check out who else had been nominated, and when I saw the list of 30 guys or so, I never thought that I would make it past the nomination round," Gunter said.

That surprise grew exponentially when their names were called on Saturday. "I was really shocked that I made it onto Homecoming Court and that I actually won. I was thrilled that my classmates chose me to represent them. Out of all of the guys in the senior class they chose me, and that is very humbling and flattering," Gunter said.

Gettys enjoyed not only the end result, but the complete cycle of nominating and electing Homecoming Court representatives. "The whole process was so much fun. It has been one of my favorite times at Samford," Gettys said.

After her coronation, Gettys said that her friends were overwhelmingly supportive. "My wonderful friends could not be more excited for me. I have a new nickname now, and I secretly love it. It has made me appreciate them all the more!"



Pictured from left: Freshmen Mary Evelyn Todd and Lars Larson, sophomores Maggie Cravens and Tyler Matthews, seniors Susan Macfarland, Nathan Troost, Queen Emily Gettys, King Billy Gunter, Caroline Johnson, Rocky Alling and juniors Tai Richardson and Ben Talfair.

Story: Susan Hamm, Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Stephen Nelson & Evan Chandlee











# From One Stage

## Miss Samford Pageant

**O**n November 14, eight highly qualified ladies took the Wright Center's stage to compete in an opportunity of a lifetime. The young women lit up the stage with gorgeous smiles and wowed the audience with their stunning talent. The 2008 Miss Samford Pageant was a night full of poise, beauty and glamour combined for an incredible show.





## to the *Next*

The theme of the 2008 pageant, "The Music of the Night," was portrayed throughout the lively numbers preformed. The contestants opened the show with a choreographed piece to the classic "On Broadway." Their dance routine impressed the crowd and left the audience waiting on the edge of their seats for the remaining competitions. These separate competitions included the lifestyle and fitness, talent, evening wear and on-stage question competitions.

This year, the scholarship pageant was directed by junior elementary education major Ashley Oliver and sophomore journalism and mass communication major Molly Jones. The previous Miss Samford and Miss Alabama 2008 Amanda Tapely emceed the event with junior musical theater major Jordan Bondurant. The emcees not only hosted the show but also entertained with some musical numbers, including piano pieces performed by Tapely and a song from Bondurant.

As the entertainment went on, the audience was held in suspense and anticipated the new crowning of Miss Samford 2008. Throughout the competitions, the judges decided that freshman interior design major Anna Laura Bryan would be the new representative as Miss Samford. "I'm just really excited and honored," Bryan said. "I was Morgan County Junior Miss my senior year and have competed in other Miss Alabama preliminaries, but this is my first win." Bryan worked hard in hopes to win. She said that she prepared by working out regularly, kept up with current events and promoted her platform, Paws

for Autism. "I worked with my backstage mom Brooke Brown, who was first runner-up to Miss Samford a few years ago, to polish my walk and make sure it was poised and elegant," Bryan said.

The first runner-up was senior nursing major Elizabeth Fuller. Fuller came in first in the talent competition with her stunning performance of "Polichinelle" by Sergei Rachmaninoff. Sophomore business major Susan Hamm was named second runner-up. She placed first in the lifestyle and fitness competition with her toned and svelte figure. This was Hamm's second year participating in the Miss Samford Pageant. "It was so great to work with all the girls and get to know them better. We had the best time together," Hamm said. Other participants included sophomores Jenna Tanner, Jennifer Houston, Katelyn Nolen and Sarah McGough, and senior Malika Moore.

Bryan said she could not be more excited for the Miss Alabama competition. She mentioned plans to continue to keep up with current events, stay fit and promote her platform. "I am so excited to work with my friends who have lots of experience with the Miss Alabama circuit. They will be such a big help in making sure I am polished and ready," Bryan said.

Story: Tara White

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Stephen Nelson





# Into the Woods

## Beeson Woods Life

On the outskirts of the east side of campus, under a tunnel and over a bridge, to Beeson Woods we go. Three-story brick buildings resembling large houses rather than dormitories are nestled on the edge of a ravine between impressive greenery. The area is dotted with quaint street lamps and gives residents the feel of a community all to themselves.

Residence Life has been active this year in Beeson Woods working to make the community even tighter. Through activities ranging from karaoke jam sessions, movie nights and free bowling to the famous annual Beeson Ball, students were able to have a good time and meet their neighbors.

This was the first year that Beeson Woods residents have been able to express their inner pop stars via ResLife karaoke. Upperclassmen secured their five minutes of fame as they performed in Harry's with flair. And yes, Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On," also known as the theme song from "Titanic," was sung.

"That was such a great turn-out," junior Marvin Hall Resident Assistant and English major Tai Richardson said.

"So many people came, and it was like the real deal. There was a sound board, amps and a screen with the music lyrics. The Beeson Woods staff sang a song together."

Residence Life movie nights also took place in Harry's, where over the course of the year several films such as "Eagle Eye"

were shown on the big screen as students munched on popcorn. In April, Residence Life treated residents to a free night of bowling at the Vestavia Bowl Family Fun Center.

But not all the events which took place in Beeson Woods were fun and games. Several robberies took place over the Christmas holiday. Rooms in James, Ralph, Luther, Marvin, Wesley and Evergreen were broken into and items were stolen. As of early February, according to The Samford Crimson, 13 thefts had been reported. Electronics such as TVs, laptops and DVDs were the most frequently stolen items.

The Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management subsequently cracked down on its security practices, and life in Beeson Woods went on.

Beeson Woods Residence Life had two main events, which set the tone for the year. In November, Beeson Ball 2008, a formal affair which independent Beeson residents look forward to all year, was held at 5th Avenue Antiques in downtown Birmingham. The theme for the night was "Unforgettable."

"The dance area had hard-wood floors, so the music ricocheted off of it and made it even louder," junior communication studies major Meg Cochran said. "There were a couple of times when we would just circle up, and people did the worm and these crazy gyration moves. Everyone was drenched in

sweat."

"Beeson Ball was crunk," junior communication studies major Steven Williams said. "The techno brought out the inner European in me."

The other main event was the grand re-opening of the former

"Residence Life has been active this year in Beeson Woods working to make the community even tighter."





Rosa recreation room into the hip, re-decorated “The Underground.” The recreation room had formally been available to students as a place to hang out, but the site was unattractive to residents and the room was almost always empty as a result. A fall town-hall style meeting with Vice President of Operations and Planning Sarah Latham resulted in the refurbished hang-out.

“At the town-hall meeting with Sarah Latham, she asked what stuff students would want to see improved, and I said ‘How about that room under Rosa? I think we should utilize it,’” senior Orlean Hall RA and psychology major Jonathan Davey said. “Shortly thereafter, plans started to come about to get the Rosa room ready.”

“The Underground” now has a fresh coat of paint, a ping-pong table, pool table, vending machines, comfy furniture and an impressive collection of board games. Beeson Woods has a new hot spot.

Story: Lydia Hignite

Layout : Megan Marr

Photographs: Janell King & Jordan Jarvis



# 'Tis the Season for

*Celebration*

Christmas at Samford



Some call it the most wonderful time of the year, Christmas time that is. How could it not be? With lights, cookies, singing, hot chocolate and overgenerous people everywhere, Christmas usually stands as one of the most anticipated holidays of the year. People look forward to Christmas not only for the aforementioned excitement, but also for the traditions that every individual, family or in our case, institution holds dear. From the garland and wreaths on the front gates to the annual Christmas dinner in the Caf, there's so much to look forward to. "I love the warmth everyone here gives off," sophomore political science major Daniel Lentz said. "We want to be with our real families, but when we can't be with them, our Samford family fills in and forms a new type of Christmas experience that cannot be found elsewhere."





By no means does Samford take the Christmas season lightly. At the end of November, an oversized Christmas tree is placed in front of the Harwell Goodwin Davis Library. The enormous spherical ornaments glimmer as they catch the quickly fading sunlight, signaling the end of the year. The decor provides for a beautiful scene and a backdrop for many a photo-op. The tree's presence sets an attitude of anticipation and teases students until the campus is lit up with Christmas magic during the Lighting of the Way and the Hanging of the Green.

"The lights at night are my favorite. I can sit down by the tree and meditate and just get lost in the real reason for the season," Lentz said. The Lighting of the Way event is the favorite among many it seems. Brittany Wilson, sophomore business major, said, "Lighting of the Way is definitely the best part of the Christmas festivities here at Samford. It's so fun to walk from Reid Chapel over to the tree and just watch the quad transform into such a beautiful landscape."

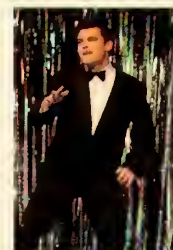
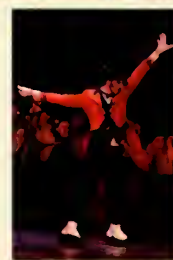
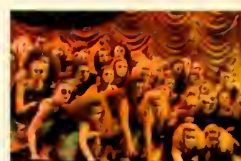


The Lighting of the Way and Hanging of the Green are two of Samford's most time-honored and beloved traditions. But the Christmas Spirit is definitely not limited to these two major events. Whatever you enjoy, there's some event at Samford that is guaranteed to spread the joy of Christmas to everyone. It would be impossible to ignore the plethora of Christmas parties and festivities thrown by almost every organization on campus. There's the Festival of Christmas Music, tacky Christmas sweater parties, the Bells of Buchanan Christmas Concert and who can forget the live nativity scene portrayed by the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi.

Christmas at Samford is something more magnificent and wonderful than anywhere else. "I just look so forward to Samford's Christmas traditions. I always get in the best mood from all the warmth and excitement of the season and the time I get to spend with my friends," Wilson said. There's something for everyone at Samford to get even the biggest "Scrooge" in the Christmas spirit. With a plethora of traditions, Samford does not disappoint during the holiday season.

Story: Tara White  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Dubose Ratchford

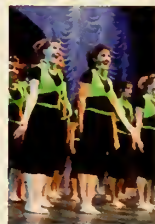
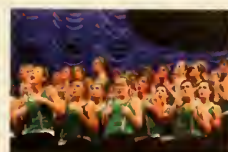




An event that started out as a sing along on the steps of Renfroe Hall at Howard College in 1951 has grown to be one of Samford's most cherished traditions. In 1957, Howard College moved to Lakeshore Drive, bringing with it the Step Sing tradition.

The first Step Sing at this location was held during convocation. Many changes, including the addition of costumes and props, took place during the 1960s. In 1966, the year after Howard College became Samford University, emcees became a part of the show. In 1967, groups began choosing a theme around which to base its show. In 1970, Step Sing celebrated its 20th anniversary, and the Sweepstakes Trophy was added. A few years later, the first band accompanied the performances. In 1976, Step Sing moved to its current home in the Wright Center Concert Hall. Groups began using recorded music instead of the Step Sing band in the early 1990s, and the committee began awarding the





# Sing 2009

Participants' Choice Award to the cast members' favorite shows.

Under the direction of the Student Activities Council and the Office of Student Involvement, students organize the Step Sing shows. This includes music arrangement, choreography and costume design. Step Sing allows students to participate through leadership development, organizational administration and time management, and it continues to be one of the most popular traditions at Samford.

Step Sing 2009, Standing Ovation, was held from February 12-14 in the Wright Center. It marked the 59th anniversary of Step Sing. Participants put over 40 hours of hard work into the show, and directors spent even more time preparing for the sold-out shows. The committee prepared all throughout the year, and without their hard work and dedication, this year's production would not have been such a success. The theme, Standing Ovation, places emphasis on the participants and their excitement, motivation and enthusiasm through the weeks leading up to Step Sing.

Each year, the Step Sing Committee and participants choose a community service project to support. This year, NorthStar Youth Ministries of Birmingham, Ala. was the philanthropy chosen. This organization provides spiritual, moral, educational and career support to help young people in Birmingham raised in low to moderate income families. It relies on support from the community to make programs available. This year, the Thursday night performance was deemed Community Night, and a portion

of the ticket sale proceeds went to sending kids to NorthStar's summer Bible camp.

However, money was collected during intermission and after every show, and over \$9,000 was raised throughout the weekend.

The Step Sing scholarship was first awarded in the 1980s. It is a prestigious award because it is based on Samford campus involvement and academic strength. The 2009 winners of the Step Sing scholarships are freshmen Stephanie Smith and Allison Morgan, sophomores Autumn Bagwell and Maddie Henderson and juniors Emily Aiken and Emma Schell.

Senior biology major Laura Matthews and senior religion major Grant Millsaps served as the directors for this year's Step Sing. Both of them were former committee members, and they are both involved in multiple other areas of campus. Matthews and Millsaps

worked together to make Step Sing a success. The 2009 emcees, sophomore communication studies major Meredith Howard and junior religion major Ben Telfair added to the excitement. With their clever, humorous

introductions, they helped to keep the audience's attention, and interest throughout each show.

**"Every performance group had it out to win, and they each gave it their all."**





We had fun doing it,  
and I think that really  
showed on stage.



As with every Step Sing competition, participants' eyes were set on the Sweepstakes Trophy. Every performance group had it out to win, and they each gave it their all. Pi Kappa Phi took Sweepstakes, wowing the audience with their show, "Open for Business." Previously, Pi Kappa Phi had not won Sweepstakes since 1996 but took Overall Participant's Choice Award in 2006. Director of the Pi Kappa Phi show, junior music and pre-medicine major Adam Murphy, said, "This year we had a lot of energy coming into our show. Our new associates' class was full of strong musicians and our brothers that participated were excited and ready to lead. We didn't practice 'hard' per se, but we had fun doing it, and I think that really showed on stage. The reaction from the crowd on the Monday night dress rehearsal really helped get us pumped up for the whole week."

Murphy said the idea for the show came up when he was joking around with a few friends. They were listening to "It's Business Time" by Flight of the Conchords one day and thought it would be a great song for a Step Sing show. Then they came up with a few other songs such as "Takin' Care of Business" and "The Office" theme song at that time. After that, he said, "The show just caught fire in the fraternity and everyone would start to contribute ideas."

Murphy claimed that Pi Kappa Phi "didn't come into the show expecting to win or even thinking of (themselves) as contenders. (They) just wanted to put on a fun show that people would really want to watch again and again." When they won Sweepstakes, the fraternity was "absolutely overjoyed," Murphy said. He said it "was just a sensational experience for (himself) and for all of Pi Kappa Phi."

The first runner-up was former Sweepstakes Award winner Dudes-a-Plenty, an all-male group that gets together just for Step Sing. Their 2009 act was "The Show." Independent Ladies took second runner-up with "Home Alone." This group also organizes just for Step Sing and is a former Sweepstakes Award winner. The Participants' Choice Awards went to Independent Ladies for Music, Phi Mu for Choreography, Dudes-a-Plenty for Costumes and Pi Kappa Phi for Most Entertaining Show. All of the performances were entertaining, and it was evident that the participants and committee put forth their best efforts to make it a success once again.

Story: Craig Kleimeyer  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Stephen Nelson







## Groups & Themes:

Freshman Ladies: "Fierce"

Alpha Delta Pi: "Moonlight Becomes Her"

Sigma Chi: "Braveheart"

Chi Omega: "Go Green"

Lambda Chi Alpha: "Let's Roll"

Freshman Girls: "A Whole New World"



Phi Mu: "Phi Mu Gets a Clue"

Zeta Tau Alpha: "Recipe for Disaster"

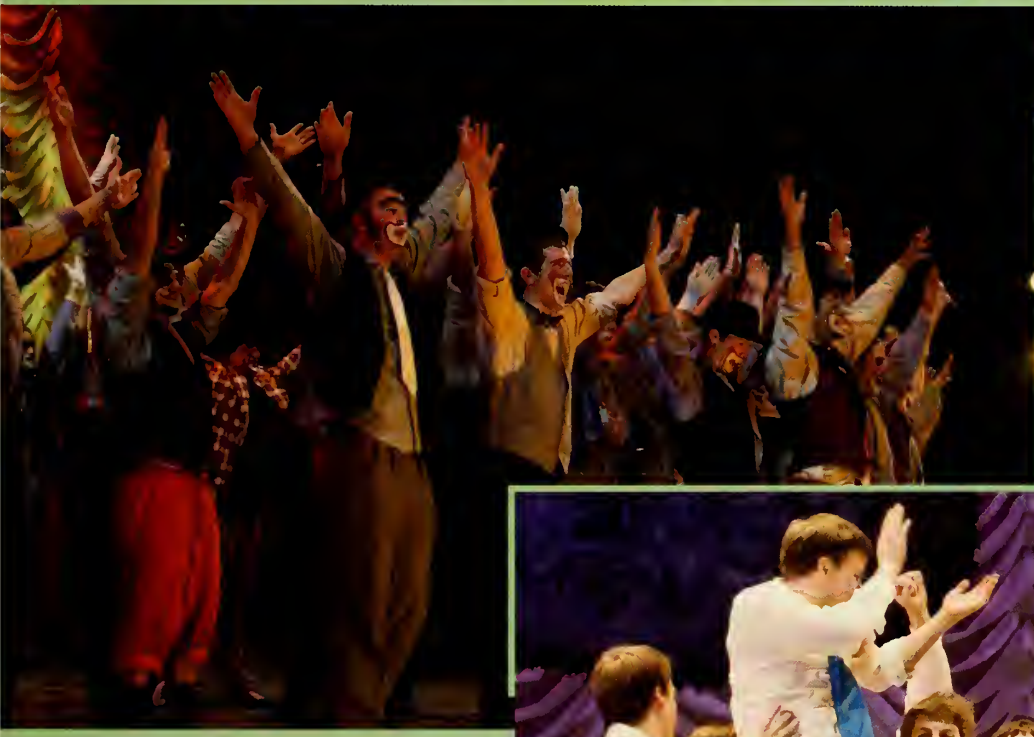
University Ministries: "A Royal Life"

Alpha Omicron Pi:

"Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide"







# Winners:

- Emcees: Ben Telfair & Meredith Howard
- 1st Runner-Up:  
Dudes-a-Plenty: "The Show"
- 2nd Runner-Up:  
Independent Ladies: "Home Alone"
- Sweepstakes Award winner:  
Pi Kappa Phi: "Open For Business"





## Taking a Deep, *Fresh* Breath of Air

### Spring Fling 2009

Full green leaves sprouting on trees, birds chirping and Samford's landscaping looking its best. Sundresses pulled from the depths of closets, and sunglasses serving as an all-function accessory. The collaboration of these things can only mean one thing: springtime at Samford. As the second semester and school year come to a close, students feel the itch to get outside and enjoy the warm, sunny days of April and May. And what better way to celebrate the coming of this refreshing season than with SGAs Spring Fling activities.

The 2009 Spring Fling was free of rain and full of energy. The Student Activities Council (SAC) put on a show this year with many multi-themed and crowd-drawing activities. The week started off great with a Residence Life-sponsored cosmic bowling night. "It was so fun to take a break from the stresses of school and just be able to hang out with my friends," freshman nursing major Kathleen Cleveland said. Amid the black lights and melodic music, students came out for a night of strikes and spares, ready for a little healthy competition. "My friends and I

had the best time," Cleveland said.

Wednesday night also brought the heat as Samford's baseball team battled the Alabama Crimson Tide to pull out a nail-biting win. The packed stadium cheered loudly for its Bulldogs as the team clinched the victory. Thursday featured multiple events including a catered lunch in Ben Brown Plaza from Buffalo Wild Wings in and a concert by the band, Thalon, in Harry's later that night.

Friday brought the biggest action of all with a highly anticipated concert from Matt Wertz. SAC Concert Co-Chair Hollee Harris said, "Wertz was really excited about playing at Samford." The sophomore journalism and mass communication major said the concert turnout was huge and was "so happy to be a part of bringing the student's number one requested artist to campus." SAC and Spring Fling Committee members served refreshments to concertgoers and gave away commemorative glasses. The atmosphere for the concert was electric as Wertz rocked Ben Brown Plaza on a warm April night.





Story: Tara White  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Leah Jane Henderson



“The sense of community felt in the Spring Fling activities is what draws students out year after year.”

The final day of the week brought a Recreation Day on the Quad and a competitive Battle of the Bands teeming with talent. Although the weather was slightly overcast, Spring Flingers still came out to jump around on inflatables and cheer on their favorite musicians. “Battle of the Bands was a huge success this year and brought a ton of people together,” Harris said.

The sense of community felt in the Spring Fling activities is what draws students out year after year. “It’s an effort to bring students together. It’s a good time for everyone to just hang out,” Ashley Oliver, the Spring Fling Co-Chair and junior elementary education major, said. Students are sure to find fun in one of the many activities offered and are always able to spend some quality social time with others. With all of these events, Spring Fling marks the beginning of the prettiest time on Samford’s campus with festivities, food, fun and friends.





# Students burst Outside the Bubble

## Studying Abroad

When I tell people outside of Samford that I went to London for Jan Term, they are genuinely impressed. I often hear, "Life in London? For two whole weeks? What a wonderful cultural experience!" When I tell other Samford students and professors about my trip, one of the first questions they will ask is, "So, where do you want to go next?" It's not that they consider London to be a dull trip. In fact, after I tell them about Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and Wicked, they're ready to hop the pond themselves. It's just that anyone familiar with Samford is familiar with the extensive study abroad opportunities offered here.

Within the past few years, Samford students have had the opportunity to travel to places such as England, Greece, Costa Rica, Italy, Peru and the Caribbean. In Summer 2009 alone, Samford has groups going to China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Spain and Tanzania. Through individualized study-abroad programs, students are even able to study in Austria, Japan, Norway, Senegal, Singapore and Trinidad. The travel options are seemingly endless for Samford students who feel trapped inside the bubble.

What is one of the best things about studying abroad? Getting class credit with the world as your classroom. Senior management and finance major Christopher Putt earned credit for

Classics 304: Eternal Rome simply by doing as the Romans do.

"Our Samford group spent Jan Term in the heart of Rome, about a 15 minute walk from St. Peter's and a 15 minute walk from the Coliseum," he said. "Since we stayed in the same place for the whole two weeks, we really got to call it home."

Anna Page, a junior Spanish major, had a similar experience last summer in Spain. "Actually living in Madrid and being able to explore its diversities was an amazing experience," she said. "Samford made it so easy for us to immerse ourselves in the culture and get to live like Spaniards for a month."

"It's so important for students to be able to form their own opinions about the world based on first-hand experience."

But studying abroad is not just something a student does for a summer, semester or Jan Term. The effects of global travel can last a lifetime. "After spending a semester living in London, I know that I want travel to be a part of my life no matter what I end up doing in my career," junior journalism and mass communication major Shannon Dille said. To Kaitlin McCulley, a junior English and journalism and mass communication double major, a study abroad experience is key to becoming a well-rounded global citizen. "I think it's so, so important for students to be able to form their own opinions about issues going on in the world based on first-hand experience," she said. "If students never get to see how people in other cultures live their lives on a daily basis, they can never begin to understand where another person is coming from." Classics department chair Stephen Todd said he encourages students of all majors to travel as much as they can while at Samford. "If you've always wanted to go to Germany or Spain or Greece or Italy, now's the time to do it," Todd said. We have the travel opportunities of a lifetime laid out in front of us – all we have to do is take them.

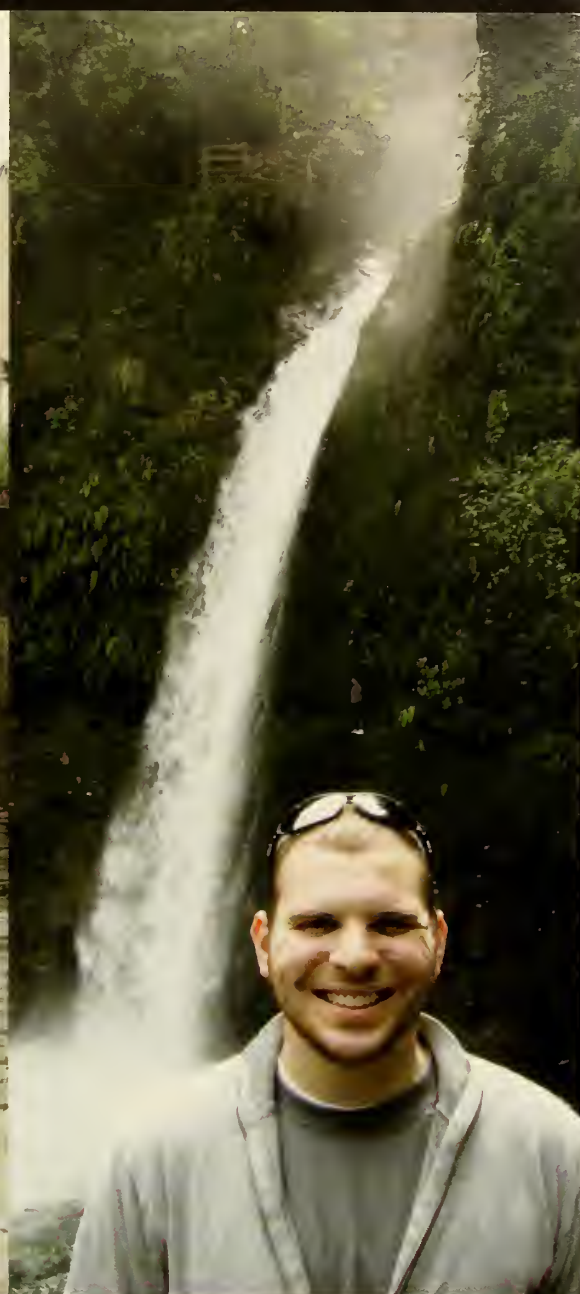
Story: Lauren Womack

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Anna Page, Dana Basinger,  
Jonathan Davey, Shannon Flynt







Students of all class levels have the opportunity to go all over the world through the study abroad program. Pictured are students making the most of their time in Costa Rica and London.





## A Journey Through Place and Time Theatre

Enter the Bonnie Bolding Swearingen Hall on the southwest corner of the Quad, aimlessly wander through the maze of staircases peppered throughout the building, and you may well end up in the costume shop of the Theatre Department. To have a glimpse into this abyss of fabrics and pincushions is to take a peek into the diversity of the 2008 to 2009 season of shows.

On one of the clothing racks hang the remnants of the intricate dresses and cavalier-esque attire from the season opener, Aphra Behn's *The Rover*. Open a cabinet door and you'll reveal the simple frocks of an Irish family scrounging to make ends meet, and you may not overlook the dead pet rooster of family member, Rosie, in Brian Friel's *Dancing At Lughnasa*. Look up on a shelf or two and you'll note a contemporary, trendy lineup of clothing as a result of the Musical Theatre Ensemble bringing some street savvy women to the stage in *A...My Name Will Always Be Alice*, or some diverse, beautifully designed costumes for the annual dance production, Momentum. The remaining clothing racks are either gloomily laden with the poor Wingfield family garments of Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*,

or they are graced with the elegance of the Lord family in the 1930's situational musical comedy, *High Society*.

The curtain rose in early October to unveil a fantastic scenic representation of Naples during Carnival time in the seventeenth century with the production, *The Rover*. The director and cast translated the difficult text of the play from the stage to the audience and made it relatable to today's society while simultaneously keeping Behn's original time period and setting.

Skip several centuries to 1936 Ireland and the setting for Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*. This heart-warming drama is set within the cottage of the Mundy sisters and is told as a memory from the grown son of one of the sisters, Michael. This show was a true bonding experience for the cast as they took on the traits of a family knit as tightly as the gloves they made, as well

as taking on Irish accents. Cast member Sarah Chase Kee, a sophomore theatre major, said, "Not only did we bond as sisters on the stage, but off stage as well. Lughnasa was a pivotal point not only in my acting career but in building lasting friendships."

Student Director senior theatre major Emily Hoppe and musical director Dr. Randall Richardson led Samford's Musical Theatre

women in the hysterical and feminine show, *A...My Name Will Always Be Alice*. There was so much talent amongst these women that there were two separate casts who were silhouetted against a

"This show was a true bonding experience for the cast as they took on the traits of a family knit as tightly as the gloves they made."





A...My Name Will Always Be Alice was one of many plays the theater department performed this year. From the costumes to the stage setting to the actors themselves, the theater department went above and beyond to put on quality productions throughout the year.

city skyline giving the show a jazzy, urban feel. The show is a musical revue with songs, monologues and scenes about the lives of women at different stages. Junior musical theatre major Alexandra Tate, who was a part of the ensemble, said, "Alice is such a dynamic show filled with love, laughter, tears and songs that women of every age can relate to and gives guys an enjoyable insight into the thoughts and feelings of (women)."

In February, the glamorized scene of Alice was left for the harsh city life of 1930s St. Louis. Like Lughnasa, Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* is a memory play told from the perspective of the son of the Wingfield family, Tom. The tragically heartbreaking drama deals with the Wingfield's struggle against the hopelessness that threatens them. The cast tackled the powerful play with all their might and left an imprinted memory on the minds of the audience members.

Throughout the spring, the Theatre Department proved that they could devour the challenge of acting, singing and finally dancing. They put on their dancing shoes to set *Momentum* into motion as the final piece to the trio-talents. The dances were each separately choreographed by the fall choreography class, dancers within the Department of Theatre and director of the show Lisa Gibbs. These dances included styles such as lyrical, hip hop, classical ballet and modern, all with varying styles of music including classical, Muse, Broadway and Coldplay. This was the largest production of the season with over 20 cast members and 90 costumes.

The Theatre Department closed the season with what Cole Porter would have called a "swellegant, elegant" show, *High Society I*. It is the classic film and play, *The Philadelphia Story*, set to music and dance. The two film versions of this plot were



made famous by the likes of Katharine Hepburn, Jimmy Stewart, Cary Grant, Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby. On the matter of living up to these screen legends' images of the characters, senior musical theatre major Lydia Myers said, "It's intimidating to play a role made famous by two of your idols, not to mention, two of the greatest actresses of all time. While it was difficult to make a role like Tracy Lord my own, it was a challenge and an honor I was happy to accept."

On your way out of the costume shop, don't miss the Alligator tail refusing to be tucked into the closet. This costume was from the Creative Drama classes' touring production of children's show, *Feliciano Feydra LeRoux*. And please don't lose an eye or a limb by the swords in the corner used for the acting classes lessons in stage combat and swashbuckling. If ever you see warfare or conflict on the quad that seems to result in violence, do not fear; it is merely the actors ever-ferently honing and perfecting their craft.

Story: Chelsea Reynolds

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Jordan Jarvis & Lauren Womack



# 2008 - 2009 Samford University

## *Theatre* Season

Aphra Behn's  
*The Rover*

Brian Friel's  
*Dancing At Lughnasa*

Joan Micklin Silver and  
Julianne Boyd's  
*A...My Name Will  
Always Be Alice*

Tennessee Williams'  
*The Glass Menagerie*

Ben Elton's  
*High Society*

Dance Ensemble  
*Momentum*

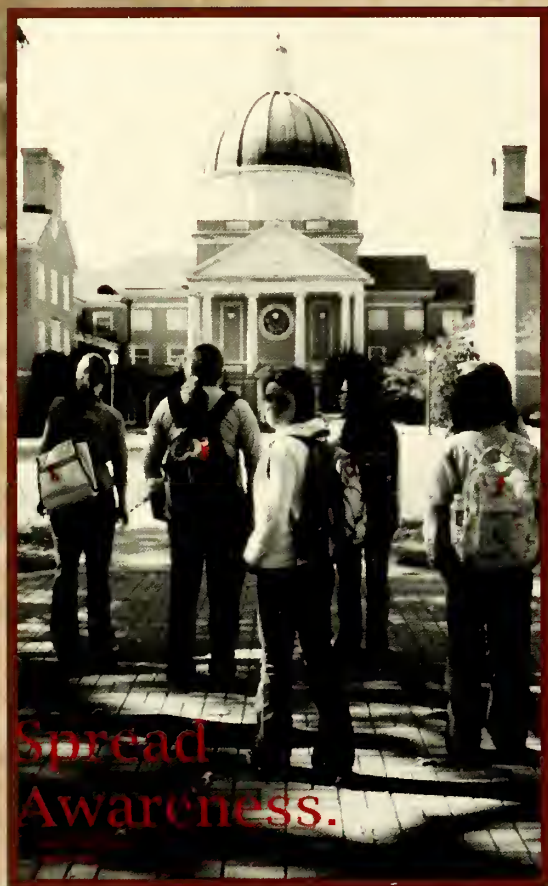








our Landscape and Architecture







# Relevant

**T**his year, as every year, has had its ups and downs, good times and bad times. But through it all, Christ has remained the Rock and cornerstone of Samford University. As seasons come to an end, we must take the time to look back and reflect on all the Lord has done and the lessons that we have learned.

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens ... I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 14). As we look back on the 2008-09 school year, let us see how we have grown individually, as a community and as a member of the global body of Christ. Let us we reflect on what the Lord has done both globally and within the Samford community and be in awe...



# Year in Review

## Samford Events

Samford officially joins Southern Conference. *July 1, 2008*

Construction begins on new football field house. *July 2008*

Samford gets real bulldog mascot, Libby. *August 12, 2008*

Samford trustees endorse new strategic plan for the university. *September 5, 2008*

Samford's first Southern Conference competition soccer team plays Elon University. *September 26, 2008*

Samford president from 1983-2006, Dr. Thomas E. Corts passes away. *February 4, 2009*

Pi Kappa Phi takes Step Sing Sweepstakes trophy for their show "Open for Business". *February 14, 2009*

Samford sets record with 2,175 undergraduate applications for fall 2009. *February 17, 2009*

Science building is dedicated and named William Self Propst Hall. *March 10, 2009*

Samford announces fate of Ramsay Hall. *April 21, 2009*



Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Stock Imagery, Leah Jane Henderson & Alex Cloke



## National & World Events

- Gas hits \$4 a gallon. *June 9, 2008*
- Wall Street meltdown/"stock market crash"
- Congress passes Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2009. *October 3, 2008*
- Barack Obama, first non-white president of the United States elected. *November 4, 2008*
- Israel attacks Gaza. *December 27, 2008*
- Barack Obama inaugurated as new U.S. president. *January 20, 2009*
- Somali pirates take captain of American ship Maersk Alabama hostage. *April 9, 2009*
- U.S. declares swine flu as a public health emergency. *April 26, 2009*







# Faith *Inspiring* Political Participation

## Samford and the 2008 Election

The tension leading up to the presidential election of 2008 was palpable even within the Samford bubble. Voter registration drives, political speakers and election articles in the *Crimson* reminded the students of that important day in November. Part of Samford's approach to the election was perhaps unique among other college campuses. Several Samford events including a panel discussion, an academic lecture and a screening of a debate between presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain addressed the relationship between faith and politics.

The theme of these events reflected the effort that many Samford students made to discover how their religious beliefs should affect their participation in the election. Junior political science major Lauren Howard expressed the feeling many students share that leaving faith out of politics is impossible because her relationship with God is an inalienable part of who she is. Howard's faith certainly encouraged her own participation in government matters as she led efforts at Samford for McCain's campaign throughout the election year. "My faith is a huge part of my life. You can't separate that," Howard said.

Junior English major Matt Campbell also got involved in the presidential election this year. Campbell took the fall semester off to work full-time for the Obama campaign and was excited when Obama won. He said that if people didn't like the outcome of the election, the result should only be encouragement for them to get more involved in politics. "This election, more than

any other one, has shown the power of the individual to act. It is an invitation to make change," Campbell said.

Though students' faith led them to get involved in politics by voting for a specific candidate in the 2008 Election, many students affirmed that life would indeed go on whether or not they voted for Obama. "In some countries, the result of an election like this has serious repercussions. Some people may die because of it," junior political science major Ross Glendye said. Many are resting in the belief that Glendye expressed that the structure of the American government prevents anything terrible from happening in the country due to the election of a president. With Obama's visions, the country may be due for a change, but it will not be one that is detrimental to the nation as a whole.

Like many Christians, freshman religion major Andrew Toney tried to look at the American government within a larger context. He felt it was important to exercise his right to vote not only for America itself, but for the global community as well. His faith also led him to not stress about the outcome of the election. "Politics is an area where we tend to forget God's sovereignty. God reaches further than politics and doesn't need a political system to do His work," Toney said.

Story: Amanda Cherry

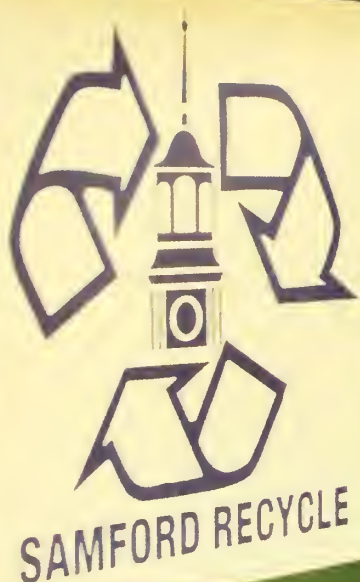
Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Jordan Jarvis,  
Lauren Womack, Matt Campbell









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# It is *Easy* Being Green...

## Samford Goes Green

One aspect of Samford that continues to stand out each year is the global awareness activism of its students. Everywhere you look, there is an opportunity to join in the fight against all kinds of injustices, such as fair trade and poverty, just to name a couple. In the effort to increase awareness of global problems, Samford decided that the 2008-2009 school year was the time to really “go green.”

The administration made many green changes throughout the year, specifically headed by the leadership of Dr. Sarah Latham, the new Vice President of Operations and Planning. The most noticeable change was the removal of trays from the caf. After much uproar and withdrawal pains, it was been reported that the trays actually decreased food waste and water usage. Also, recycling bins were placed in every residence area, outside the post office and even in Ben Brown Plaza.

“We worked with Waste Management to bring the bins to campus. We started with an audit of campus space to identify the locations and ensure that they would be present in every academic and administrative building,” Latham said. In addition to these changes, the printers on campus now only print on recycled paper, which reportedly already saved 547 mature trees from being cut down.

Not only did the administration take great strides to improve the “greenness” of Samford this year, but the students also stepped up and took on their own role. A major player in the fight for environmental awareness is Kelly Burns, the president of Restoring Eden, a group on campus that is dedicated to being good stewards of God’s creation. “Restoring Eden is mainly working to improve student habits,” Burns said. They are trying to do this by spearheading green efforts such as a cleanup of the Cahaba River and a huge Earth Day project to raise awareness

and inspire action against non eco-friendly practices.

Green awareness has definitely been spread around Samford and doesn’t look to slow down anytime soon. More and more people seemed to frequent the recycling bins this year. Even plastic bins were placed in the food court as makeshift recycling centers. The Alpha Delta Pi and Chi Omega houses also both have their own improvised recycling bins in their houses. Chi Omega even presented a Step Sing show entitled “Go Green,” challenging their sisters and the audience to practice more earth-friendly habits.

The tides are definitely changing here at Samford. Going green is no longer seen

as unnecessary, but as the way of the future. We now have the ability to check the statistics of how much improvement Samford is making each month on the “Go Green” website. Samford is a well-respected institution and can only improve upon that image with a more environmentally friendly and “green” campus. The administration is working on developing a new Transportation Services department that will “coordinate alternative transportation, taking the lead on our long established Commute Smart program, including bicycle rentals and Zipcars,” Latham said. Samford made great strides this year and has come so far in its green improvements that it can only have room to keep improving.

“The tides are definitely changing here at Samford. Going green is no longer seen as unnecessary, but as the way of the future.”





Story: Tara White  
Layout : Megan Marr  
Photographs: Leah Jane Henderson & Janell King



# Why did you *Choose* Samford?

## A Growing Attraction.

Samford University ranked in the top 27 among all national universities according to the Center for College Affordability and Productivity of Washington, D.C. in fall 2008. Samford was also the only private institution in Alabama among the national universities category, and it was only one of three institutions in the state to rank in the second tier (University of Alabama was No. 91 and Auburn University was No. 96).

This year, Samford offered 24 degree programs and nearly 100 majors throughout eight schools. Samford also had 17 NCAA Division I intercollegiate sports, 100 student organizations and seven national Greek organizations. In other words, we're pretty much a big deal.

For most of us, those specific facts were news to take pride in. Samford is the 87th oldest college or university in America, so we're definitely not the new kid on the block, but you can bet we have enough to keep the numbers coming. All those statistics and rankings are fantastic, but if we're talking about what really draws students to Samford, we're going to have to dig a little deeper than U.S. News and World Report.

If Samford were a person it would be the Homecoming Queen, the jock, the nerd and the artist all rolled into one. We've got the smarts. We've got the heart. We've got the skills. So, let's hear it from the people who actually go to Samford. Sorry, rankings and statistics — the students are the ones who really knew what's going on.

Many students were hooked from the first time they set foot on Samford's campus.

"After coming, visiting and seeing the campus, I was interested in the school itself. After meeting the people and being around the football team, I just knew that this is where I wanted to go," sophomore interior design major and football player Austin Hayes said.

Samford's atmosphere was a major draw for many students like senior accounting major John Jansen.

"I liked the small class sizes and that it is a Christian university. I knew it wasn't going to be a party school," Jansen said.

For others, Samford was a place to explore their faith in a secure environment.

"My favorite part of Samford is the Christian atmosphere," first-year pharmacy student Whitney Cowart said. "That is definitely a major reason why I chose it. I like that I can discuss my beliefs with others here and know that they feel the same way I do. It is such a great support system and I have grown so much in my faith since being here."

Samford wasn't a first choice for some students, but often they just couldn't stay away. Sophomore journalism and mass communication major and transfer student Lauren Sharpe is one of these students.

"I chose to come to Samford after a year at Belmont because Samford felt like much more of a fit. All throughout my freshman year I kept thinking about the opportunities and the experiences I was missing at Samford," Sharpe said. "I was a journalism major at Belmont, but I just really wanted to be a part of the journalism department here. The faculty is exceptional. They have such welcoming personalities and really have students' best interests at heart."

Going away to college for the first time is scary and overwhelming, but somehow becoming a student at Samford makes it a little easier. College may only last for four years, but Samford had more to offer each year. It's like hitting shuffle on your iPod. One minute you're jamming out to a favorite, but then...shuffle! The pace will completely change. Change is good; it keeps us on our toes.

"I like that I can discuss my beliefs with others here and know that they feel the same way I do."







*Photos clockwise from top:* The Quad serves as a place for studying, throwing the disc or just basking in the sun for a quick nap year after year. Alex Huguenard sports the Samford Red and Blue during a pregame tailgate. Students gather in Ben Brown Plaza in between classes for some time to catch up and get a breath of fresh air.

Story: Caroline May

Layout: Sarah Andrews

Photographs: Julian Hollar, Janell King, Jordan Jarvis





# A Taste of the Real World

## In-field Experience Sends Out Qualified Samford Students

"I can't get no satisfaction." The Rolling Stones said it and students have all felt it. Samford students put hours on end into school work preparing for a sometimes seemingly distant degree. Until the moment they walk across the stage at graduation, many students have felt somewhat dissatisfied when the work is continually piled on. But indeed, in the end it's all worth it.

A number of undergraduate programs at Samford require students to complete an internship in their chosen career field before graduation. Education majors, like senior Katy Hankins, begin their clinical placements in the second semester of their sophomore year and spend three weeks in schools for three semesters. Majors are also required to spend a Jan-Term month getting in-classroom experience. The first semester of senior year, they are in the classroom every week for three days a week, four hours at a time. Their final semester is spent student-teaching. All these hours pile on, but education majors agree that the work is not a waste of time.

"I have learned from working with students what is effective in teaching and what is not. This has given me the opportunity to apply what I have learned in my classes and use it to help students learn as well as strengthen my ability to teach once I'm in the classroom as the lead teacher. We learn so much during that experience that can never be taught through a lecture," Hankins said.

Not only does in-field experience help students get real world experience and build upon what they learn in the classroom, but it makes them more marketable as well. A 2006 study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) indicated that 62.5 percent of new college hires performed undergraduate internships. Employers responding to the association's 2007 Recruiting Benchmarks Survey reported that they offered full-time jobs to almost two-thirds of their interns.

Completing an internship before graduation can also open students' eyes to what they really want to do after graduation. "I would definitely encourage everyone who doubts their major to find an internship before they graduate. Interning confirmed to me that I was in the right major and that I have a passion for design, so it was well worth it," senior interior design major Elysia Boes said.

Senior Spanish and Latin American studies major Jen Vinson agreed. "I was a teacher's aid at Edgewood Elementary School

with their ESL (English as a Second Language) program. It was a great opportunity for me because I realized I was called to work with Spanish missions," Vinson said.

According to the 2001 Job Outlook Survey by the NACE, employers say the perfect job candidate is a graduate who brings relevant work experience to the table and this experience is gained mostly through internships.

Another group of hard working students out in the field are the nursing majors. Nursing majors must complete four semesters of clinicals at local hospitals. Along with the rigorous class curriculum, they are getting hands-on experience with real patients. Senior nursing major and soccer player Jenna Sturgill had to balance varsity soccer with her nursing schedule. "Each clinical day is extremely important since you never know what you are going to get to do or experience," Sturgill said. "It was a challenge juggling my soccer travel schedule with my required clinical days, but having both of these commitments gave me even more experience in balancing life with my future career in nursing."

The list of advantages to doing an internship or getting in-field experience seems endless, and it is clear that many Samford students believe this fact. Look out working world, Samford graduates come full of relevant work experience. How's that for satisfaction?







“We learn so much during that experience that can never be taught through a lecture.”



Story: Caroline E. May  
Layout : Megan Marr  
Photographs: Jesse Walsh  
and Pamela Williams





**B**oth Samford's creators and observers of art found artistic venues increasingly available both on campus and off this year. The Visiting Visual Artist Series, located in the Samford Gallery, held various exhibitions throughout the year. The art on display was often native to the Birmingham area. As a result, students were also given the opportunity to be involved in discussions with the artists themselves at lectures and receptions on campus.

The fall semester's exhibits included Ted Whisenhunt's "One-Man Show." His eccentric paintings and sculptures are renowned throughout the Southeast for their unique beauty and rich preservation of Southern history and culture. Each piece represents an ancient southern superstition against evil spirits. The artist visited the gallery and gave a lecture for art students in which he explained and interpreted his work. "The students need to know that any art they produce has to come from their heart and their environment," Samford Gallery curator Robin Snyder said. Whisenhunt's lecture and work engaged students in an understanding of the importance of genuine inspiration behind creativity.

The gallery was reopened for the spring semester, showcasing blown glass by Sam Cornman. Cornman's work is included in collections in Germany, New York and Japan, as well as in Birmingham. In addition to his exhibited work, Cornman held a workshop to offer hands-on instruction for art students at Bear Creek Glass, where his work resides.

In addition to hosting visiting artists, the Samford Gallery also offered opportunities for student, alumni and faculty to showcase their work this year. Shows for graduating seniors and current students took place both semesters, and an alumni and faculty exhibition was on display throughout October and during Homecoming.

"Displaying student artwork is important because it allows the rest of the student body to really see the art students' talent," sophomore art major Lizzy Newton said. The art on display was of

diverse media. Samford's creativity manifested itself through paint, pencil, sculpture and fashion.

"We not only try to reach our immediate students with these gallery shows, but we also try to reach all of Samford and the greater Birmingham area," Snyder said.

Opportunities for artistic flare stretched far beyond Samford's campus this year as well. In September, over a hundred local artists gathered for Birmingham's annual Artwalk. Held at Urban Standard, an eclectic café downtown, the Birmingham Artwalk provided a diverse display of style and culture. Local undiscovered artists were given the opportunity to exhibit their work and disperse their names among Birmingham galleries and local connoisseurs.

One undeniable artistic experience this year for Samford students as well as the entire city of Birmingham was the Leonardo da Vinci exhibit "Leonardo da Vinci: Drawings from the Biblioteca Reale in Turin" at the Birmingham Museum of Art. The exhibit was the first ever display of da Vinci's drawings in the United States. The drawings were previously on display in the Biblioteca Reale in Turin, Italy since 1831. Samford art students and faculty took advantage of the rare and enriching artistic opportunity and spent an entire day touring the exhibit and enjoying lunch downtown.

Samford's art department and Birmingham's growing artistic market make the pursuit of art skills and creative culture easy and effective for the art student and the art-interested alike.

**"Opportunities for artistic flare stretch far beyond Samford's campus."**





Samford art students had the opportunity to blow glass with glass artist Sam Cornman. Art Walk and Sidewalk are yearly events that Samford students enjoy taking part in.



Story: EA Wade  
Layout : Megan Marr  
Photographs: Jesse Walsh,  
Megan Marr & Leah Jane Henderson





*Photos clock-wise from left:* Freshmen had the opportunity to go on the Freshman Retreat before classes started to get to know each other better in a more personal setting. Freshmen break free from timidity at the 90s Dance. This year, Pittman Hall was a women's residence. The occupying gender has bounced back and forth for a few years prior to the 2008-09 school year.



# Planting the Seed

Freshmen enter Samford as school's largest crop.

In the fall of 2008, a total of 708 freshmen (63 percent female, 37 percent male) worked to find their niche on campus, dealing with new factors ranging from dorm life to college-level academics. As for every freshmen class that steps on campus, the task which lay ahead for them was to explore, step outside of their comfort level and see what the newfound college lifestyle has to offer.

"I wasn't quite sure what college life was going to be about," freshman sports medicine major Brittany Truitt said. "I knew it was going to be being away from my family, making new friends and being on my own for the first time. I was a little scared and hesitant, but once I got here I realized that everyone's in the same boat, and we're all trying to move on and start a new chapter of our lives."

Director of the Office of Freshman Life Dana Basinger said that incoming freshmen at Samford tend to branch out and make friends more quickly than their fellow freshmen at larger universities.

"People come to Samford not knowing anybody," Basinger said. "And if you knew one person from high school, it probably wasn't your best friend. So everybody who comes here is sort of in the same place, where they have to get to know people quickly. I think that students at Samford bond faster than people at the state universities. You have to, and the bonds are strong among Samford students."

College life presents a new challenge that freshmen faced in high school, but in college they often find it on a larger scale: how to juggle everything. New students are constantly working to find the right balance of work and play that will hopefully define the rest of their years as an undergraduate.

"Settling into Samford wasn't as stressful as I thought it was going to be," freshman musical theatre major Logan Heim said. "The toughest thing for me was time management — managing all the different classes I had to go to along with rehearsals. It seems like there are not enough hours in the day to do everything."

When it comes to academia, a new component of the university, which was

specific to freshmen this year was the University Fellows program. This program, which replaced the Honors program, sought to aid students in fostering a working knowledge and curiosity that reaches both deep and wide. Apart from specialized, advanced courses, the program offered other benefits to its students as well. University Fellows students traveled to Rome, Italy in May. From August until May, freshmen continued to work to find their way to the inauguration of their time at Samford.

"I was a little scared and hesitant, but once I got here I realized everyone's in the same boat."

"I've had a really good time getting to meet new people," freshman undeclared major Jordan Clark said. "I chose to participate in Greek life as well, and that has really been fun."

Upperclassmen are likely to agree that this one year could potentially set the tone for the rest of a student's life.

"Even after a year, freshmen have grown and developed and changed as people," Basinger said. "I think we really offer that to students in the first year: an opportunity to open your mind, to learn and to develop relationships with each other and your professors. That truly is a hallmark of the Samford experience."



Story: Lydia Hignite

Layout: Sarah Andrews

Photographs: Leah Jane Henderson

& Stephen Nelson





# The Heart of Samford

## Quad Life

It seems quite the challenge to walk to class on a spring morning and not appreciate the beauty of Samford's campus. The Quad, an eye-catching part of the university, means a little something different to every student. To one person, the flourishing green grass provides the perfect place for a lunch date. To another, the Quad is the best place to hang around (literally) in the trees and enjoy a lazy afternoon. While for the more adventurous student, the Quad serves as the perfect place to play ultimate Frisbee or to jump the hill with a bicycle.

Although opinions may vary, all students will agree that Samford's Quad is beautiful and unique.

"The Quad is wonderful, but it has nothing to do with the Quad itself. It's the people, the time and the experience that makes it awesome," senior history major Andrew Westover said.

Many students would probably agree they had some of their best memories this year on the soft green grass of our Quad.

"My favorite memory on the Quad this year was going there after an extremely stressful week. A couple of my friends and I brought junk food, a blanket and a laptop to watch a movie underneath the stars," freshman biochemistry major Anna Worth said.

However, the hammock club stood

out unanimously this year as the most unique part of Samford's Quad. Grouped together under the small trees by the library was an enticing display of hammocks. Students portrayed a distinct southern charm by allowing anybody to come and enjoy the hammocks on a beautiful, preferably warm, day. Many students spent their afternoons in the hammocks reading, studying or even enjoying an afternoon nap.

Though no matter how it may differ from other university green spaces, Samford's Quad is arguably the most beautiful one in the South. It is the only place where you can look to both ends and see gorgeous chapels or even go chill with Mr. Beeson and overlook the grand front gates.

"The Quad is a wonderful place to sit and relax with friends on lazy afternoons, especially just before sunset when the beauty of the Quad really comes alive," sophomore philosophy and religion major Stephen Nelson said.

It is easy to see how much the Quad is loved by Samford and its students year after year. Each day this year when the weather was good, you could expect to see several students out on the grass enjoying

the sunshine. Without the Quad, the university would lose part of its own sparkle.

"Although opinions may vary, all students will agree that Samford's Quad is beautiful & unique."

So next year when you are walking to class or looking out the window when you should be paying attention during class, make sure to recognize beauty before you. The Quad is such a blessing to have here. We should all be thankful to have such a beautiful place to relax, study and enjoy the company of friends.

Story: Alicia Phillips

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Leah Jane Henderson,  
Jordan Jarvis & Dubose Ratchford







# Samford in a Global Perspective

## International Students Study at Samford

When it comes to recruiting international students, Samford's reputation is all it takes. "It's mostly relational recruiting," Associate Director of International Studies Ashley Gassner said. "A student will study here and go back to his or her country and tell friends. Then their friends want to come here."

This year, the International Studies program had a total of 43 students. Because the program was relatively small, the International Studies Office was able to help the students individually. "It's more one-on-one than anything. I work with them throughout the process: application, arrival, etc.," Gassner said.

### Countries Represented at Samford

Australia	Lebanon
South Africa	Bahamas
Croatia	Nicaragua

About 20 countries were represented on Samford's campus this year. Among these countries are Australia, South Africa, Croatia, Lebanon, the Bahamas and Nicaragua. "The majority of the students we have come for all four years, but we do have several that are here on exchange," Gassner said. The exchange program students come from Seoul Women's University in South Korea, Hong Kong Baptist University in China and Weingarten University in Germany.

It's not always easy for students to be able to study in a foreign country. "It was difficult. I had to take all the exams, translate a lot of paperwork and do the whole visa process, which is long and expensive," senior international relations major and international student from Brazil Renan Silveira said.

The paperwork is not the only hurdle international students have to clear. "Samford is a culture shock to them. It's different than a state college culture and other places abroad," Gassner said.

Though Silveira faced a few challenges when he arrived at Samford, he adjusted well. "I have had good friends since the beginning that helped me with everything. It was not hard for me to adapt," he said.

The International Club on campus is another thing that helped the international students adapt to Samford culture. "The club helps integrate students into the campus population," Gassner

explained. "But it's not just international students who are involved; it's domestic students and missionary kids, too."

The International Club provides students with opportunities to share experiences, do community service, get involved on campus and even go on retreats. "The international retreat is a day-long retreat where regional colleges get together," Gassner said. "Students that go on the retreat love it because they get to meet students from other campuses and they get to see local southern culture."

Most of the international students like the "local southern culture" found at Samford and in Birmingham. "Samford is a great school. Everybody is really nice and interested in different backgrounds," Silveira said. When he graduates from Samford, Silveira plans to return to Brazil and work with international trade.

Though Samford helps international students learn and adapt to American culture, the international students help Samford students, too. "There are some people on campus who never get to go abroad, and this is a good way to be introduced to another country," Gassner said.

Story: Sarah Andrews

Layout : Megan Marr

Photographs: Stock Imagery

### Exchange Programs

Seoul Women's University  
in South Korea

Hong Kong Baptist University  
in China

Weingarten University  
in Germany











# Mobilizing the

*Faith*

## Samford students serve abroad

**W**e as believers of Christ have been given the revelation of Jesus Christ. The mystery has been revealed to us and it is important to go tell others based on the Great Commission," Hamilton said.

Hamilton is referring to the passage found in Matthew 28:19 that is known as the Great

risk children in the U.S. and around the world; and Camp China, a mission which focuses on teaching conversational English to children in China.

The purpose of the fair was for students to explore how their gifts can fit into the global context, Hamilton said.

**"We send students to prayer walk, meet people and discover needs so that when we do send a church planter, they're not starting from scratch."**

Commission. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (ESV)

It is this mandate, Hamilton said, which inspires Samford students to reach out to others in the name of Jesus Christ, whether it's in their own communities, across state lines or across international borders.

In October, Beeson Divinity School's Global Center created a two-day-long Missions Emphasis, where several missions-oriented events were held on campus. The Global Center partnered with University Ministries to create a missions fair held in the University Center's Flag Colonnade on both of those days. Representatives came from 16 different missions organizations to talk to interested students.

The specializations and countries of ministry were diverse. Some of the organizations present were Arab World Ministries, a ministry seeking to establish churches in Muslim countries; Buckner International, an organization working to connect missionaries with orphans and at-

Opal Hardgrove works as New Ministry and Mentorship Development Coordinator for Mission to the World, an organization focused on building church-planting movements in several countries. Hardgrove said she noticed more students become particularly interested in arts-related ministries.

"I have a lot of contact with students that are musicians or artists or photographers who would like to know where they could go and use their gifts," Hardgrove said. "Ireland is one of the areas where we do a lot of artsy-type things, and Greece is a new field I'm developing now which I think will be pretty artsy too."

Josh Mulden, Missions Communication Specialist for the North American Mission Board, was also at the fair. Mulden was looking for students who were interested in the Board's two focuses: church-planting and evangelism. In particular, students have an opportunity during the summers to play a primary role in church-planting.

"We use a lot of our students in Canada to assist church-planters by having them go into the community

before there is ever even a church plant," Mulden said. "We send students to do prayer walking, to meet people and to discover needs so that when we do send a church planter, they're not starting from scratch."

Of the wide range of Christian ministry organizations that seek to recruit students interested in sharing their faith, Hamilton stressed that students can use just about any interest they have to reach out to others.

"If you like to do art or even doodle on a piece of paper while you're in class, even doodling can be translated into the mission field as henna art," Hamilton said. "I have a friend that is in a Muslim country right now doing a henna art ministry, getting to know the henna artists. I even know a guy doing balloon art in Latin America."

It seems the opportunities in ministry can encompass almost anything and it is clear after this year that Samford continues to work hard to make these opportunities available to all students.

Story: Lydia Hignite

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Lauren Womack and

Amanda Rypel



# Life Under New *Leadership*

## Insight to the working of Dr. Westmoreland

From a tranquil office viewing the early signs of a spring courtyard, he sat calmly with the morning sun on his face, a loaded schedule humming on his mind and the Samford world resting heavily upon his pinstriped shoulders. Despite the consequences of an unsettling national economic crisis, Dr. Andrew Westmoreland continued this year to plan diligently for the present and future of the university he has now led for three years.

"One of our main plans this coming year is to focus on recruitment because of the uncertainties of the economy and families who are troubled about how to manage their finances," Westmoreland said. "The key to our planning is to ensure we have an adequate number of well-prepared, bright students, and we are much more conscious of that this year."

With comparative Furman University tuition rising to \$45,000 for the 2009-2010 academic year, Westmoreland and his administration are striving to financially distinguish Samford as a place for students who want a quality education without the inflated cost of attendance, which currently sits at \$26,000.

In addition to recruitment, Westmoreland is vigilantly carrying out the Strategic Plan set forth by the administration this year. This plan outlines projected goals for scholarships, faculty enhancements, academic programs and capital projects.

"One specific goal of the plan is to enhance the diversity of our campus," Westmoreland said. "We hosted a luncheon meeting for over 130 African American students, alumni and employees in order to start networking with them and get them involved with recruitment."

In addition to diversity, the Strategic Plan calls for one-third of the entire campaign goal of \$200 million to be put toward scholarships. Among many endowments to all manner of academic programs, it specifically provides the School of the Arts with a guest faculty series and "Steinway School" status, ensuring the excellence of its pianos and other instruments. Westmoreland said the plan also provides an International Studies endowment to "expand international partnerships and opportunities by providing essential administrative support to maintain an ambitious program."

**"I want to tear down these silos that get built up and create a culture of warmth between students, faculty and administration."**

The Strategic Plan also expands endowments to programs such as the School of Nursing Clinical Learning Program and Simulation Laboratories for the maintenance of models, computers, simulators and diagnostic equipment used by students. Most notably, the plan projects funds for the creation of the new university center, which will double in size to centralize new and improved facilities including the food court, coffee shop, bookstore and all major offices.

Westmoreland's plans, however, extend beyond the present Strategic Plan and into a larger vision for the future of the university. Upon the exchange of president in 2006, Westmoreland said he brought with him the qualities of visibility, accessibility and openness.

"I want the walls to come down between students and administration," he said. "I want to tear down these silos that get built up and create a culture of warmth between students, faculty and administration."

Westmoreland said he projects a further degree of openness beyond that of student-administrative relationships and places his ideology for Samford in the spirit of Christ.

"I seek to avoid the narrow ideological claims that people have on us," Westmoreland said. "I want this to be a place where people can come with divergent ideas and find acceptance. I want Samford to be a place where we're not afraid."

Samford's president will continue next year to trek from meeting to meeting, and even classroom to classroom, implementing his plans for the university.

"If Samford is shot through with Christ-centered intellectual capacity and performance, then I think the world is drawn to that," Westmoreland said, "and our graduates can have a greater impact in shaping society and making a positive difference in the world."

Story: Blake Tommey

Layout : Megan Marr

Photographs: Jordan Jarvis,

Julian Hollar & Leah Jane Henderson.









## HIGHLANDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Reaching for a Difference

### Going Beyond the Bubble

This year, a group of Samford students learned to live out the vision that Claiborne describes through a new ministry to the homeless. Every Sunday afternoon, a group of five to 20 students handed out sack lunches in downtown Birmingham and spent time with the people they met there. The group's intention was to build relationships with the people. They felt that being a dependable presence in the lives of the homeless was the way to effectively love them.

When the group first went downtown, they didn't have a specific goal to accomplish. The weekly trip was simply about talking with the people and letting them know they are important. Senior sociology major Andrew Dick, who helped start the ministry with junior family studies major Chelsea Thompson, emphasized the importance of listening. "I thought we would talk a lot more, but they just want to be heard. It's about sitting with them and letting them talk for an hour," Dick said. Junior religion major Alex Huguenard said being intentional about knowing the people allowed him to point them to the Lord and tell them about the One who knows them better than anyone else.

Through such conversation, the students were able to form strong friendships. During the month of January, Huguenard decided to live even more of his life with his homeless friends by spending two or three hours hanging out with them every day. He grew close to one man in particular and was able to talk to him even more about Christ. Throughout the months they went downtown, the group noticed change in the people they met, and several pointed to the friend that Huguenard was discipling as an example and catalyst for their personal changes. The man was an alcoholic and never wanted to give up drinking,

but eventually expressed the desire to go to rehab.

The group was sure to emphasize that the work they did downtown was not of their own merit. The experience of going downtown taught them even more that they were dependent on the Holy Spirit to work and move in people's lives. They simply tried to love people and prayed that God would move. Huguenard also acknowledged that the homeless were not the only ones in need of God, but that we all need Him. "After spending time with people, you realize how great the need is in their lives and in our own," he said.

The students said God's work seemed evident when students who were a part of this mission reflected on their own lives. Hanging out downtown with the homeless truly put their lives in perspective, and these lessons on perspective showed the mutual encouragement that the students and their homeless friends gave one another. Clearly, these students' experiences are a great example of the benefits that can come from taking a chance and stepping outside the Samford bubble.

Story: Amanda Cherry

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Elizabeth Richards



“It is a beautiful thing when folks in poverty are no longer a missions project but become genuine friends and family with whom we laugh, cry, dream and struggle.”

Shane Claiborne, *The Irresistible Revolution*







# Multi-purpose *Sustenance* Samford Food Court

It's 10:35 a.m. Convo just let out. As you stroll down the unevenly-paved Samford sidewalks crowded with a myriad of lively students, you wonder how to fill the free time before your 11:00 class. Led by the herd-like mass of people, the bustling Ben Brown Plaza emerges around the corner of the library. The cackle of laughter sharply pervades the high volume of chatter. Instinctively, you know that you are headed straight for one of Samford's prime social gathering sites: the Food Court.

This year, like every year, was a familiar scene as this glorious hub of social interaction known as the Samford Food Court functioned as the watering hole in the jungle of Samford. The delectable smells of freshly brewed coffee and warm muffins wafted across the expanse of the University Center. Conversations echoed in the corridor of the mailboxes. As you emerged into the jam-packed area of chairs and tables, you would instantly see

some of the best people-watching this university has to offer. Even if you can't stand crowds or ran out of money on your Samford card, the Food Court is still a place every student at Samford has come to know well. The new additions of the year, including plasma-screen televisions and later O'Henry's hours, proved to be other enticing factors. No matter what class you belong to, the Food Court continued to offer a unique social enrichment time for everyone.

Freshmen were easy to spot amongst the Food Court inhabitants this year. Constantly looking over their shoulders and insecurely staring at every passerby, the newest additions to the Food Court crowd had definite agendas while there. Commonly overheard phrases included, "Did you see those pictures on Facebook?" and "Oh my gosh, my CP teacher just assigned me a five-page paper, and it's due in two days!" The bonding and instant friendships formed while wasting time in the Food Court allowed freshmen to solidify their niche within the Samford community this year.

Sophomores and juniors were also easily spotted in the crowd. Constantly accompanied by a textbook, note cards, study group or a coffee in hand, these two classes couldn't afford to solely enjoy their downtime. "Whenever I was in a hurry this year, it was so easy just to get what I needed and there was always service with a smile," sophomore political science major Daniel Lentz said. With usually perplexed and stressed expressions, sophomores and juniors

knew enough people to not constantly stare out of their peripherals and were seasoned enough to confidently strut through the intimidating predatory stares.

By senior year, students have mastered the art of blending in. However, these efforts were in vain when senior theses and surveys were forced upon the innocent and unassuming freshmen prey. Usually found huddled in small groups, seniors talked quietly over scheduled lunches and coffee dates. "I loved spending time in the food court this year because I could take time out of my day to connect with old friends and stay on campus between classes," senior nursing major Meredith Redus said. The 2008-2009 seniors used the Food Court to cherish the remaining days of leisurely social interactions before their emergence into the "real world."

No matter the class or stage in the life of Samford students, the Food Court continued to provide shelter for the university's social scene this year. One could find literal sustenance while getting his or her fill of social interactions by taking time to enjoy all the benefits the Food Court has to offer.

**"Although opinions may vary, all students will agree that Samford's Quad is beautiful & unique."**

familiar faces and know that a time for procrastination had begun.

This year the Food Court continued to serve not only as a place of congregation, but one of late night studying, group meetings, meals for freshmen who didn't make it to the Caf, upperclassmen making up for their lost social hour in the Caf and

Story: Tara White

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Leah Jane Henderson  
and Megan Marr









# New Establishment of *Authority*

## Campus Safety Undergoes Major Changes

As the 2009 graduates would profess, the 2008-09 school year was a year of changes. Athletics moved from the Ohio Valley Conference to the Southern Conference, the Caf became trayless, the economy took a rough turn and the first non-white president was elected. However, one of the biggest changes within the Samford network is found in the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management, formerly known as Campus Safety.

The changes began with the announcing of the retirement of Campus Safety Chief Bobby Breed and other department restructuring early in the year. June 1, 2008, Breed began to report to Assistant to the President Dr. Sarah Latham, whose title and responsibilities were shifted over the summer to be under the umbrella of Operations and Planning on campus. Shortly after these changes, Campus Safety was renamed the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management. Latham sent a notice to students via Samford email informing them of the changes that were being implemented so as to keep students informed and bring higher rapport among the department.

As a part of the new and improved Public Safety, a three-phase plan was put into effect. Phase one: active shooter defense training, phase two: development of a contingency plan by upper management and phase three: a mock disaster drill. The Rave Emergency Alert System was also put into place to alert students about severe weather or other emergencies on campus. "We don't all watch The Weather Channel all the time, so it makes me

feel more secure that someone knows what's going on," junior accounting major Kate Coleman said.

Two Public Safety staff members were sent to the police academy for additional training to be equipped to can carry weapons on the job. Four new well-equipped staff members were also hired this year. The Public Safety office plans to remain open 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, as opposed to closing at 10 p.m. as it did before.

"There was also an increase in foot and bike patrols and events for students concerning personal safety. Junior exercise science major Lindley Holder said she appreciates the increase in staff. "Now when I come back on campus after hours, someone actually takes a good look at my ID. It makes me feel safer and more secure that they actually look to see who's coming onto campus," she said.

Self-defense classes, as well as programs on how to prevent identity theft, were also offered this year and Breed began the initiative towards getting the Department of Public Safety officially accredited by law enforcement.

The Department of Public Safety holds a new and clean record with room to build a fresh reputation that will be well accepted by Samford University.

Story: Caroline May

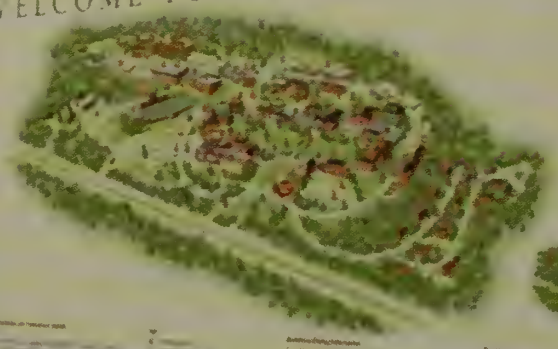
Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Megan Marr





# WELCOME TO SAMFORD UNIVERSITY



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# Greek Life

**R**epresenting a significant portion of the Samford student body, Greek-affiliated students wear their letters high and proud as members of a group of people with which they can identify.

Whether it's big letters on the front of a T-shirt or a day of dressing in slacks and a tie, members of each sorority and fraternity find ways to distinguish themselves as a unit and body within the Greek system and overall Samford community.

Students have the opportunity to hold office in their respective fraternity or sorority and by doing so can play over-arching roles in their particular organizations. Many students choose to play supporting roles and still are able to represent their group just as strongly. However, despite the different letters and even distinguishing title of being "Greek," Greek life students are all part of the Samford body. "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corin. 12:12).

Scripture says, for example, the Alpha Delta Pi's can't say to the Pi Kappa Phi's, "I don't need you!" (vs. 21) Instead, "God has put the body together ... so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other" (vs. 24-25).



# Adding to the Faces of Identity

## Recruitment process takes on big transformations

There were quite a few changes in Greek Recruitment this fall. Despite bringing in a new advisor and computer system, changing the week-long recruitment process and pushing back the recruitment date, everything ran smoothly.

The new Greek Life advisor, Sherrelle Hudson, came to Samford from the University of Alabama. She brought experience, a new perspective and knowledge as to how everything Greek is supposed to work.

One of the main changes she made to the Samford Greek system was to have more in-depth training for Panhellenic Council members and Rho Gamma leaders prior to recruitment. "In past years, Panhellenic and its advisors have just kind of winged it," Panhellenic Council member and junior Religion major Laura Immel said, "Sherrelle coming in with experience and structure was a great improvement for Greek life here at Samford."

Recruitment was later in the semester this year in order to avoid interfering with Samford football. Also, the new ICS computer system was put into action.

Changes were made to the actual girls' Rush process as well. Instead of splitting Philanthropy Night over two nights, the Rho Gamma groups were split in half. One half of the groups attended all five house parties on Wednesday, and the other half did the same on Thursday. This eliminated any extra stress for the potential new members by giving them a day off from recruitment to handle any schoolwork they needed to complete. "The change in Philanthropy Night really seemed to help the potential new members with their academics and with voting. It really seemed to make the whole process a lot less stressful for them," sophomore English major and Panhellenic Council member Maddie Henderson said.

This year, the Panhellenic Council worked on programming for new members that relate to college-aged women such as drinking, drugs, hazing and sex. They also revised the rules of recruitment in the Recruitment Compact in order to help add structure to the recruitment process.

So, what's the reaction toward all of these changes? The general impression was success. "Sherrelle brought a lot of excitement and experience to our recruitment process. Everyone loved how young she is and that she is easy to relate to," Immel said.

"Coming from Alabama, she brought a new light onto Samford Greeks and what we represent," Henderson said.

"Everyone loved the accessibility of the ICS system," Hudson said. "The sororities liked how they could view their bid lists and potential new member information immediately from anywhere on-line, and registration and voting was so much easier for potential new members than in years past."

Hudson also mentioned some improvements she and the Panhellenic Council hope to make for next year. "Hopefully we can have recruitment earlier in the semester next year, but







we are also trying to work around tough athletic and academic schedules. We might try to shorten the required hours for parties and decorating to help lighten the load for the sorority girls too. There is always room to improve," Hudson said.

Out of the 270 women participating in recruitment this year, 230 were matched to a sorority. With a 98 bid-match percentage, nearly every girl was matched to her first pick on bid day.

Similarly, on the male side of Greek Life, the Interfraternity Council enacted several changes this past year. They experienced several structural changes within the council to provide more accountability. It shifted from having one President and one Vice President to a multi Vice Presidential system. New positions such as the Education Chair and VP of Recruitment helped to put more concentration on specific areas of the fraternities.

Like the women, the Greek men shifted to an all on-line system for recruitment registration and voting. Another new addition to fraternity recruitment this fall was Greek Week. This was a week created to highlight the fraternities on campus and let potential new members hang out, go out or just get to know each fraternity more in-depth. Each group had a designated night where they planned an event for the potential new members to attend. "Both the fraternities and the potential new members really liked it" Interfraternity Council Advisor and Director of Student Involvement Jennifer Dunn Hall said.

A major change this year is the loss of the McElwain tutoring program. The IFC encouraged each fraternity to devote all of their services to their individual philanthropies. This is a temporary change, and the IFC is looking to a new Greek-wide philanthropy next fall.

"We are also trying to have different guest speakers come and work with the fraternities on things such as alcohol awareness and anti-hazings," current IFC President and sophomore Exercise Science major Jake McPherson said. "The IFC has been on the back burner for years. It was sort of an organization that many did not know existed. We are hoping to change that and really get involved with Greek life and get to work on making it the best it can be."

In response to modifications being made, "the community will begin to see small changes in the face of the fraternity here at Samford. We are changing the reputation of fraternities from one of all fun and partying to organizations of really respectable well- rounded young men," Hall said.

"The IFC here at Samford is a fluid organization that changes constantly with each new council of men. Changes are necessary and a clear solution may never be set in stone. But I feel that if we remain flexible, we can maintain a high level of success," previous IFC President junior history and social science major Zach Seanor said.



Story: Maggie Bridges

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Dubose Ratchford & Brittany Harison





# Walking the *Walk*

## Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils

When many people hear the words “Panhellenic” or “Interfraternity Councils,” events such as fraternity and sorority rush and social swaps come to mind. Though recruitment and social life are two large aspects of each of these organizations, their mission and underlying purpose is far greater than social opportunity.

The Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils at Samford strive to strengthen and fortify the Samford Greek community and promote active student involvement in varying activities across campus. Values such as safety, scholarship and philanthropy are very important to these organizations. Both organizations engaged in many activities and events that benefited both the students of Samford University as well as the Birmingham community this year.

In October, the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils combined to host a Greek Halloween Festival. Fraternities and sororities decorated their houses, and members dressed to the nines as they hosted local Birmingham children. Activities included trick-or-treating from house to house, face painting and pumpkin decorating. Laughter filled the air as tiny princesses, cheerleaders, superheroes and even political figures joyfully ran from activity to activity. The event was an overwhelming success.

In November, the Panhellenic Council focused on safety through the promotion of drug awareness. Panhellenic representatives set up booths outside the cafeteria with information regarding the amount of alcohol in varying alcoholic beverages, the negative effects of alcohol on the body and statistics on alcohol-related accidents each year. Representatives also offered students free BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) cards for students to carry. It is common knowledge that excessive drinking occurs on college campuses across the United States. By promoting awareness, the Panhellenic Council was encouraging responsibility and safety among Samford students.

Throughout the year, the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils made great efforts toward promoting safety, scholarship and philanthropy among students. Thus, both organizations have and will continue to benefit Samford University and the flourishing Birmingham community.

Story: Logan Heim

Layout: Maggie Bridges

Photographs: Michelle Darden



“The Interfraternity & Panhellenic Councils at Samford strive to strengthen and fortify the Samford Greek community.”





# Finding a Family: A *Rush* Diary

**W**alking around campus on Wednesday, September 17, it was not difficult to spot a herd of girls walking toward West campus in matching yellow shirts. This time of year is called Rush, in which a girl is given the opportunity to check out the different sororities on campus in search of a home, sisterhood and some Greek letters. As a female, I naturally partook in this time honored tradition.

The affiliated sororities are Chi Omega, Alpha Omicron Pi, Phi Mu, Zeta Tau Alpha and Alpha Delta Pi. The rush for sororities is a jam-packed process centering on the visitation of each sororities' parties. The purpose of these parties is to allow the girls to meet many of the members of the sororities and learn about the different strengths and focuses of each sorority. In talking to members and seeing the sororities in action, a girl can determine which sorority best matches with her character and interests. Each sorority is unique to its own, but all are equal in worth. There are five different categories sororities promote within themselves: service, scholarship, social, Christian womanhood and sisterhood. Each of these categories hold equal weight in a sorority, and all girls are encouraged to take part.

As I flash back to that nervous first day that would be the beginning factor in the decision of my Greek blood, I remember one girl in general who supported me through the entire process, my Rho Gamma. The "Rho Gam" acts as an unaffiliated mentoring aid to guide girls through the process of Rush. They fed us crackers out of their purses, fanned us when we were sweaty, gave us pep talks before each house party and, most importantly, provided emotional support.

The Rush process all started that fateful Wednesday. As my Rho Gam talked us through the do's and don'ts of Rush etiquette, I sat there nervously with a million little butterflies

in my stomach. The first night, Philanthropy Night, gave each girl a chance to learn about the different philanthropies, creeds, values, expectations and leadership chances in each sorority. After the first night, it was almost impossible to have a favorite sorority. All of the sororities had a large group of diverse members and similar moralistic values, as well as strong philanthropies. When bewildered at voting time, my wise Rho Gam gave me the instruction to pick the sorority where I saw girls who had values instilled in them that I strived for and girls with whom I had flowing conversations. By the end of the night, I was sure of which sorority I would place first.

Friday we met back with our Rho Gam and groups for Theme Night. We sat at the table eagerly awaiting our Rho Gam to give us our cards that contained our party invitations and thus, the potential sororities we could join. I was psyched as I read my card which had my top three choices listed. Theme Night was a little more intense and purposed with girls only allowed to attend up to three parties. The conversations with sorority members that night were suppose to be more intentional and deeply profound, really allowing the sorority members to know our hearts.

The last day of parties was Saturday, which was known as Preference Night. Girls were required to wear a nice dress with heels because the level of conversation and the overall mood of the night was again intensified. Girls could be invited back to up to two sorority parties, and this was the last night to get (and give) an impression before the final decision. After this passionate night filled with tears, love, honor and true sisterhood, we headed off to vote. This was the final decision, and as one glanced around the room, a revered silence hung in the air. I walked over to the computer knowing that I was signing my allegiance to a great group of girls, whichever sorority chose me, and I felt a peace within my heart. All week I had been stressed over making the correct decision because membership in a sorority lasted a lifetime, but now I felt sincere peace in knowing that God would fulfill his purpose for me.

## Tuesday & Wednesday Rho Gamma Group Dinner

"My Rho Gam talked us through the do's & don'ts of Rush etiquette."



## Thursday Philanthropy Night

"Philanthropy Night gave each girl a chance to learn about the different philanthropies, creeds, values, expectations and leadership chances in each sorority"



The next day, Sunday, I received a text message during church informing me that I was in the clear and had not been dropped. I jumped up for joy, much to the dismay of the congregation. As I merrily strolled into the gym for Squeal Day, I noted the mass chaos. Girls were everywhere sprawled out on the floor sitting on their precious envelopes that determined their Greek future. Parents, students and faculty lined the top track of the gym to watch the event take place. The sororities ran in one by one chanting and cheering each other on, making the noise level rise past tolerable hearing decibels. After an entire half-hour of agony, the countdown to open our envelopes began. Five, four, three, two, one...girls everywhere ripped open the letters that sealed their fate. As I frantically tore open my letter and searched for the Greek letters of my top choice, mass pandemonium ensued. People were crying, screaming, jumping for joy and running around to join their sororities.

As I spotted the name Phi Mu, I screamed ecstatically! I ran over to my sorority hugging all my friends, who had instantly become my sisters. After everyone had found their new sisters, each sorority headed back to their house to a party for the new pledges. As I walked to the Phi Mu house, gripping my new sisters' hands, a huge smile hung across my face and tears of joy streamed down my cheeks. I had now found my home away from home and my new family.



**Saturday**  
Preference Night

"Girls were required to wear a nice dress with heels because the level of conversation, and the overall mood of the night was again intensified."

**Friday**  
Theme Night

"Theme Night was a little more intense and purposed with girls only allowed to attend up to three parties."

**Sunday**  
Bid Day

"After an entire half of an hour of agony, the countdown to open our envelopes began. Five, four, three, two, one... girls everywhere ripped open the letters that sealed their fate."







# Keeping it COOL

## A Reflection on Rush

Something funny happened one day on the way to class. I decided to rush to join a fraternity. Everyone knows about the stereotypes surrounding fraternities, but being part of a close brotherhood here at Samford University did not seem to fit that stereotype. Success in intramurals, Step Sing and community service are directly attributed to fraternities and that was definitely something I wanted to be apart of.

The first night of Rush, we were divided into groups and “rushed” from house to house, meeting brothers and trying to learn a little bit of what each fraternity was about. Definitely the most formal night of rush, the brothers sought to learn a little bit about us and why we would fit in their fraternity. Each fraternity showed off their awards and tried to impress upon us why each was the best on campus. It was entertaining, but I learned a lot about each fraternity and heard about the food each one was going to cook the next night. I left that night, eager to return to the houses the next night during open house.

The second night of Rush, also known as “Open House,” allowed all those who were rushing to go wherever they wanted, whenever they wanted. Each fraternity cooked some great food and the brothers took part in some solid conversations with us. Lambda Chi Alpha had a great country boil, Pi Kappa Phi had some

great grilling and the most exotic foods of the night, Sigma Nu roasted a pig, Sigma Chi had some Philly cheese steaks and Sigma Phi Epsilon had some great food as well. This night brought out the best in each fraternity, and all the guys rushing had a chance

to get a feel of where they wanted to end up. After open house, my choice was down to two.

“Brother’s Night In” was an invitation-only night where the fraternities themselves had to start narrowing the lists to potential pledges. With the new online rush program, I logged on in the morning to see where I had been invited. Luckily, my top two choices had invited me back to their houses. This night definitely had a more serious tone, as each fraternity focused on really getting to know each guy who had been invited back. There was still fun and games, and I had an opportunity to meet all the brothers that I had not met before. After leaving for the night, I had narrowed my list to one.

The next morning, I again checked online to see if I had been invited to Brother’s Night Out. My top choice had sent me an invitation to join them at the chapter President’s house for more food, fun and conversations. My experience on this night truly solidified my wish to join that fraternity. The brothers

were genuinely interested in my thoughts of the fraternity and why I really wanted to join. The brothers also explained the plans for “Walkout Day” and what to do if a bid was received.

The next morning, I saw that I had received a bid from my top choice. I went down and signed my bid with Lambda Chi Alpha, becoming an associate with some great guys and a great fraternity. I was excited about the journey that I had ahead of me, and I could not wait to experience everything that Lambda Chi Alpha had to offer. It was a great idea to rush, and becoming an associate with Lambda Chi Alpha

has only added great experiences to my time at Samford.

“The brothers were genuinely interested in my thoughts of the fraternity and why I really wanted to join.”





Story: Zach Owens  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Zach Owens



# Why go *Greek*? Shattering the stereotype

**T**he media saturates us with stereotypical ideas of the Greek system. Television shows are full of parties and popularity contests. Movies portray them as materialistic societies. However, the Samford Greeks go above and beyond to shake these stereotypes. The Greek system at Samford consists of men and women who strive to uphold the same values the university portrays, the values of Christian fellowship, leadership, service and scholarship.

The fraternities and sororities affiliated with Samford attempt to serve as a haven away from home where students can form a new identity and family bonds. Sisterhood and brotherhood go beyond mere rituals. The relationships are ones that span many miles and last a lifetime.

"The coolest aspect of being part of an international organization is knowing that it goes beyond Samford's campus," senior Alpha Omicron Pi member and international relations major Michelle Kelly said. "One day I might run into a woman in my sorority, maybe at work or grad school, and automatically share that bond."

Through the Greek system, members gain the tools and skills to build a future that will be substantial in the real world. Each fraternity and sorority on campus is associated with an international philanthropy for whom they raise money throughout the year. Phi Mu sponsors Children's Miracle Network, Zeta Tau Alpha sponsors Susan G. Komen Foundation, Chi Omega sponsors the Make a Wish and Big Oak Ranch Foundations, Alpha Delta Pi sponsors the Ronald McDonald House and Alpha Omicron Pi sponsors the Arthritis Foundation. Sigma Epsilon sponsors Youth Aid, Sigma Chi sponsors Children's Miracle Network, Sigma Nu sponsors St. Jude's Hospital, Lambda Chi sponsors KidOne Transport and the North American Canned Food Drive and Pi Kappa Phi sponsors Push America.

There are also opportunities within the Greek system where all members can contribute to one specific philanthropy. All sororities participate in Sigma Chi's Derby Days, which benefits their philanthropy, Children's Miracle Network. Also, Samford's campus as a whole pitched in to raise money for breast cancer research by donating pink yogurt lids to Zeta Tau Alpha's drive for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Through the service projects, students expand their compassion for the needy and learn how to work with all kinds of people. These service projects teach them the value of social interaction within their organizations and the community.

Of course, Greek life is not just charity work. Retreats, formals and mixers play a major role in organizational social interaction, and at Samford, the Greek system can be seen throughout campus. Whether it's in playing a varsity or intramural sport, running for an SGA office or winning the coveted Step Sing trophy, Greeks are bound to have their hands in it all. Looking beyond what is seen on a T.V. screen, Greeks learn life lessons in more ways than sitting behind a classroom desk or mingling among themselves. It just goes to show, don't judge a book by its cover.

Story: Katie Bruder-Mattson & Megan Christians

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs:











# Dedication to Others

## Alpha Kappa Alpha

Since 1908, the sisterhood of Alpha Kappa Alpha has continued to empower communities through exemplary service initiatives and progressive programs. The women of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Omicron Mu Chapter, set goals high to extend sincerity of concern to the communities that need it the most. While small in number, the Omicron Mu Chapter made its mark in the Birmingham community this year.

The 2008 service summer began with five new initiated members eager to serve the community. In association with the Child Care Foundation, Inc., Omicron Mu fingerprinted small children in assistance with the annual health fair. The health fair brought awareness and togetherness in the Birmingham community.

Service continued into the fall, and on November 7, Omicron Mu teamed up with the Mental Health Association of Birmingham to assist with their annual Thanksgiving dinner. The members helped serve healthy food and raffled off gifts to the consumers. The consumers, members of the Mental Health Association and members of Alpha Kappa Alpha made friendships and connections through this event.

"Pretty in Pink Week" was celebrated around this same time throughout the week of Nov. 17 – Nov. 21. This week consisted of speakers who shared knowledge and insight on the business world, relationships and faith-based encouragement. Among these speakers were two local African American entrepreneurs representing Mary Kay Cosmetics, authors A. Faye Boykin and Eric Calhoun who wrote the book, *Help a Sister Out, Help a Brother Out*, and junior religion and philosophy major Jeremiah Chester, who delivered the faith-based message.

The week also consisted of an evening of dancing and exercising

to promote health and wellness. A fund-raising bake sale with proceeds to support Pathways, a women's shelter in Birmingham was held on the last day. Finally, the evening celebration of Omicron Mu's 20th anniversary on Samford's campus concluded the Pretty in Pink Week festivities.

As a sorority based on African American heritage, Omicron Mu sisters passed out flyers on black history at Samford convocations during Black History Month in January. The sisters said they were proud to celebrate with and educate others of their African American heritage. In April, Omicron Mu held Sickle Cell testing for African American students on campus. The sisters of Omicron Mu said that since the disease affects African Americans at a disproportionate rate, they wanted to be the ones to inform students at Samford about the disease.

Beginning in February, the sisters participated in the Pathways Mothers Day Out program

on the first Saturday of each month. They played with the children of the women's shelter while the mothers took a break. In celebration of Easter, the sorority provided a fun Easter egg hunt for the children. The sisters also spent a day at Jesse's Place playing with the children there. Members of the sorority said time with kids this spring was not just a learning experience for the children, but also was a learning experience for the sisters of Omicron Mu.

The year concluded with one final service opportunity for Omicron Mu with a dessert party at the Foundry in Bessemer. The Foundry serves as a shelter for recovering addicts and homeless men and women, and the sisters of Omicron Mu helped serve various desserts while interacting with the people after their Thursday night church service. Finally, six new members were initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha who were sworn in to carry on the traditions of service leadership that are displayed by the sorority each year.

"The sisters said they were proud to celebrate with and educate others of their African American heritage."



Story: Malika Moore

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Malika Moore





# Living, Serving, *Striving*

## Alpha Delta Pi

**L**ive for each other –this is a phrase that Alpha Delta Pi members hold close to their hearts. For this group of young women, the idea of sisterhood withstands generations. Since 1851, the sorority ADPi has been founded on Christian beliefs with a high standard for leadership, servant-hood and scholarship. The Samford sisters of ADPi still view these standards with the highest respect and dedicate their selves to maintaining each ideal.

Being a part of ADPi's Kappa Chapter is an honor to all of its members. However, many of these young women feel that it is also an honor to be associated with their fellow sisters. The 2008 ADPi President, Melissa Plash, said, "It is a blessing to be surrounded by women who sincerely care for and daily challenge me to better myself, and I consider myself more than fortunate to be in a sorority that is filled with women I trust and admire."

The ADPi's at Samford do not just dedicate their time to each other, but also to Samford's campus and their national philanthropy the Ronald McDonald House. Many members have extensive campus involvement and hold numerous leadership positions. Samford's ADPi members hold two main events during the school year to help raise money and awareness for the Ronald McDonald House. Through the Rock for Ronald Guitar Hero Tournament and the Fourth Annual Lion's Share Golf

Tournament, Kappa Chapter was able to raise over \$15,000 for their philanthropy.

The desire of these young women to maintain the standards of their founders is evident in their accomplishments. The Samford awards that ADPi earned are Highest Overall Chapter GPA, Highest New Member GPA, Panhellenic All Sports Award, Outstanding Chapter Advisor of the Year, Above All-Sorority Average for GPA and third Place in Homecoming Float.

The sisters of ADPi have a passion for their sorority's ideals and excellence. They define what it means to "live for each other"

**"Live for each other."**

through their relationships and bond to ADPi. "Found in ADPi is a close-knit group of women possessing personal integrity, dignity and humility. Although we all come from different backgrounds and have diverse interests, we all love ADPi and are proud to call it home," Plash said.

Story: Elizabeth Gettys

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Michelle Darden,

Elizabeth Gettys & Melissa Plash









Story: Megan Christians  
Layout : Katie Conway & Maggie Bridges  
Photographs: Maggie Bridges  
and Megan Christians







# A Sorority of *Service*

## Alpha Omicron Pi

**E**xceed(ing) the expectation" is the motto by which the Alpha Omicron Pi ladies live by at all times. This year AOII has focused on maintaining a well-rounded group of girls through participating in philanthropy, sisterhood, extra-curricular activities and overall Greek involvement.

Philanthropy was certainly AOII's strong point this year. During the fall semester the ladies hosted Strike Out Arthritis at a bowling alley. There was a solid turn out from other Samford Greeks, including Chi Omega and Sigma Phi Epsilon. Proving to be a tight knit group of women, AOII chapters from the University of Birmingham at Alabama and Huntingdon College also participated. Spring semester brought Stars for Arthritis and "Panda-monium," playing off AOII's mascot. "We take philanthropy very seriously in AOII. It is important for us to give back to the community," sophomore nursing major and philanthropy chair Candace Wilson said. For the 14th year in a row, AOII walked away with the Step Sing Community Service Award. "I was so proud of our show this year and winning community service was icing on the cake," senior international relations major Michelle Kelly said. "It's important to entertain the audience, but it is equally important to remember we are here to also raise money for charity."

Sisterhood takes on an important part in AOII. Weekly activities including, movie night, game night and spring cleaning

keep everyone involved and close. "Sisterhood is the foundation of our sorority. We are all close, all friends and always enjoy spending time with one another," sophomore biology major Lexi Fitch said. "We can always count on each other."

The sorority went camping for this year's annual sisterhood retreat. Bonfires, low ropes courses, pranks and stray dogs completed the weekend. "Sorority girls plus stray animals equals

**"Sisterhood is the foundation of our sorority."**

trouble," senior graphic design major Jessica Snow said. "We found a small dog, named him, bathed him and brought him

back for one of our alumni. It was our good deed for the day."

Intramurals, band, honors programs and other campus activities comprise the activities in which the AOII girls participate. The girls dominate in volleyball and basketball yearly. A few sisters were active with Student Activities Council and Panhellenic, planning recruitment, Homecoming and Miss Samford. With all of these extra-curricular activities, the AOII ladies still find time to do well in school and support other Greeks with their philanthropies.





# Bettering the World in *Sisterhood*

## Chi Omega

On April 5, 1895, four University of Arkansas students and a local doctor in Fayetteville, Ark. established the secrets and symbolism that bind over 260,000 women of the Chi Omega sorority. Chi Omega is the largest women's organization worldwide, even bigger than the Girl Scouts. The founders realized there was a need for an organization to cultivate both friendship and respect for the intrinsic value of women, and their vision caught fire and remains strong.

Chi Omega's colors are cardinal and straw, the flower is the white carnation and the Chi Omega mascot is the infamous owl. Throughout the past years at Samford, Chi Omega has provided its members with unique opportunities in leadership, scholarship and lifelong friendship. It strives to provide each sister in the sorority with a commitment to personal integrity, excellence in academic and intellectual pursuits, community service, spiritual development, leadership opportunities and social enrichment.

Chi Omegas hold various leadership positions and achieve in academics and scholarship. They are well-rounded and are required to be involved in at least two campus activities such as Step Sing, intramurals, SGA, Panhellenic Council, honor societies, choir, volunteer work, religious organizations and collegiate athletic teams. This year's president was education major Caroline Johnson. She is succeeded by junior education major Molly McGuire.

A quote that inspires Chi Omega at Samford is from Ghandi and says, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." The Zeta Zeta chapter of Chi Omega at Samford is dedicated to making a difference in the world through every action. One of the ways the

sisters in Chi Omega make a difference is through the sorority's philanthropies, the Make a Wish foundation and the Big Oak Girls Ranch. This year, the Chi Omega's have worked with both organizations. One aspect of helping with organizations like these is that the girls get so much out of it. Not only do the girls influence the youth through Make a Wish and the Big Oak Girls Ranch, but seeing change happen changes the girls inside as well.

In October, Chi Omega granted a wish to a little boy named Nathan who recently received a liver transplant. Nathan's wish was to go to Disney World with his younger brother, his mom and dad, and Chi Omega was able to make it possible. Seeing the smile on a child's face, especially when he has gone through so much in his life, is so powerful and is an experience of hope, strength and joy.

When the Chi Omegas volunteer at the Big Oak Girls Ranch, the experience is just like the latter. The ranch is located in Springville, Ala. It provides a Christian home for girls who need love, discipline and direction. The sisters of Chi Omega visit the ranch several times a year to spend time with the girls, play games with them and serve as mentors and friends.

Ghandi's quote was also the inspiration for Chi Omega's Step Sing show in February. Chi Omega presented the show "Go Green," and the show was all about bettering the environment and the world.

Chi Omega is all about sisterhood, and building friendships is so important. Friendships in Chi Omega bind the sisterhood together for generations and give sisters lasting relationships



throughout their lives. In the fall, the Chi Omegas go on a Sisterhood Retreat, when the sisters bond and build friendships. Participating in Step Sing allows a lot of the girls to get to know one another even better. Also, Chi Omega is the only sorority on campus in which around half of the girls who participate in the Step Sing show are freshmen. Allowing freshmen to be a part of Chi Omega's Step Sing show helps the younger girls get to know the older girls, who serve as their role models in Chi Omega.

In addition to Step Sing, many of the Chi Omega sisters are in Bible studies associated with the sorority. The Bible studies are led by juniors and seniors. Each junior leads a Bible study with a few freshmen, and each senior leads a Bible study with a few sophomores. Each year, the sisters move up the ladder. These Bible studies help the Chi Omega sisters grow spiritually, and the girls are an encouragement to one other through faith and prayer.

Furthermore, Chi Omegas are also a huge part of intramurals at Samford. This year, Chi Omegas shined in flag football, volleyball, soccer and basketball. Playing intramurals provides a great way for the sisters to show their athletic talents and to have fun being together and playing on a team.

Chi Omega is so widespread on Samford's campus. Many Chi Omegas are leaders for Orientation and Connections. They also are involved in YoungLife and other organizations off campus, and many work internships in Birmingham and around the area. The sorority revolves around helping others, and it shows in every aspect of the sisters' lives. Amazingly, some of the Chi Omegas spent Spring Break in Honduras again this year, impacting lives in another country. The sisters of Chi Omega had a fun, exciting year, and many memories were made.

Story: Craig Kleimeyer

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Craig Kleimeyer



"The sorority revolves around helping others, and it shows in every aspect of the sisters' lives."







To lend to those less fortunate a helping hand.



Story: Miranda Meado  
Layout : Megan M.  
Photographs: Miranda Meado







# *Dancin'* Through the Year

## Phi Mu

The fall of 2008 began with much excitement as President Kelly Johnson, a senior education major, returned with numerous awards from the Phi Mu National Convention held at Disney World over the summer. The Alpha Gamma chapter was presented with the award as the top collegiate chapter, as well as various awards, for their diligent support of the Children's Miracle Network, Phi Mu's national philanthropy. This chapter of women raised the most money out of all national chapters, earning the highest philanthropic service award. "That was a time in which I was truly able to see the fruits of our labor, as well as put into perspective how much our organization as a whole contributes to our philanthropy," Johnson said. The chapter's philanthropy chair, senior psychology major Miranda Meadows, was also honored for commitment and service to CMN and Phi Mu.

The fundraisers this year allowed this chapter to demonstrate its dedication to CMN by raising nearly \$40,000 to support the Alabama Children's Hospital. The money was raised through the 14th annual 5k Children's Miracle Run, a letter writing campaign, trick-or-treating for donations and the annual charity car wash. Additionally, Phi Mu sisters visited Children's Hospital weekly, leading the children in fun activities and crafts.

In the fall, many Phi Mu sisters also participated in the first "Pajamajam," where they prepared packages of crafts for Children's Hospital with special notes for the children while also enjoying games and popcorn in the Phi Mu house. The first line of the Phi Mu Creed states, "To lend to those less fortunate a helping hand," and all of the contributions of time and service from the past year demonstrate how these young women truly strive to exemplify this ideal.

While serving CMN is extremely important, the sorority also enjoys serving and participating within the Samford community.

After a successful recruitment in the fall, Phi Mu began work on the Homecoming float, which received first place for its outstanding design and theme, "Sandwich the Citadel." Also, the sorority was thrilled to witness Phi Mu sister senior nursing major Emily Gettys crowned Homecoming Queen 2008. This crown was just the first of the year as freshman Anna Laura Bryan was crowned Miss Samford later in the fall. Bryan, an interior design major, went on to represent Samford and Phi Mu in the 2009 Miss Alabama pageant.

The spring brought more crowns and excitement, though in a different way. The final dance of the year was themed "\$10 Prom" and was a perfect conclusion to the uniquely themed dances that Phi Mu presented this year. The fall semester began with a "Nerd Bash" at the McWane Science Center. This party was a creative way to welcome the newest pledges in Phi Mu as members dressed up in their most nerdy attire to dance the night away. Attendees also had the opportunity to explore various exhibits at the science center. Another highlight of the year was Carnation Ball, a special event held every three years. The spring included a total of three dances. A fun-filled evening of laser tag and glow paint and a semi-formal called "Getting' Down in B-Town" accompanied the "Prom" this spring.

The sisters showed off their dance moves to all of Samford in their 2009 Step Sing show, "Phi Mu Gets a Clue." The sorority was honored with "Participant's Choice for Best Choreography."

Johnson said that serving as president this year made for great memories and priceless experiences as a member of a philanthropy-minded group of girls. "Our chapter works so hard to serve the people in our community, and it was just wonderful to represent Alpha Gamma," Johnson said of the recognition Phi Mu received at the National Convention.



# Recipe for a *Zeta* Year

## Zeta Tau Alpha

The Delta Psi chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha has a lot to be proud of this year. Zeta sisters welcomed an incredible new pledge class, raised money for their philanthropy, served the community, threw unforgettable parties and presented complete Step Sing show.

One of the main things that the sisters of Zeta are proud of is their commitment to service. In addition to working to support their philanthropy, Zetas participate in voluntary service projects, including mission trips, church camps and mentoring, on their own throughout the year. One hundred percent of Zetas participated in service projects last year, which led to their chapter receiving the Service Award at Zeta Tau Alpha's National Convention in July.

Zeta Tau Alpha has the privilege of supporting Breast Cancer Education and Awareness as their philanthropy. Each year, Zetas participate in events that seek to educate women and raise money for their cause. Zeta held an event in the fall called "Storm the Dorms," in which sisters distributed self breast examination cards and cookies to all of the female residence halls on campus.

During the spring semester, Zeta teamed up with the women's basketball team to promote "Pink Zone," a fundraising event that raised more than \$3,000 for Breast Cancer Awareness. Zetas passed out key chains and ribbons to fans that donated money. Other Greek organizations participated in the collection of money at the event, but Zeta collected the most money, \$750.

In addition to raising money and awareness, Zetas enjoy encouraging breast cancer patients. Each Zeta makes two "Think Pink" baskets that contain small gifts, such as pink nail polish or pink slippers, to brighten the day of the courageous women who are afflicted with this disease.

While Zetas are certainly known for supporting such an important philanthropy, they are also known for their amazing parties. Over three years ago, Zeta Tau Alpha threw a party that became legendary on Samford's campus, the Paint Party. The women of Zeta, as well as many Samford men, anxiously await each year's Paint Party since the tradition began. This year, the wait was over when the social chairs announced that the very first party of the school year would be the Paint Party. The Zetas were thrilled to bring their dates to a party that promised a lot of games, dancing and paint. Games such as volleyball and tug-of-war were played on giant tarps covered in paint, and a DJ kept everyone dancing all night as paint splattered all over the crowd.

The Paint Party helped to start the year off right, but it wasn't the only fun event that Zeta hosted this year. "Sail Away with ZTA," an out-of-town formal on a riverboat in Georgia, proved

to be an unexpected and exciting surprise. A band played while everyone danced and enjoyed the views. For semiformal, Zetas were told to "frost themselves" with a lot of jewelry. Girls and their dates were treated to plenty of delicious food, including a potato bar, and the decorations even included an ice sculpture. The last party of the year encouraged girls and their dates to dress "Southern Proper" in sundresses and polo shirts while enjoying music from a country-western band.

One of Zeta Tau Alpha's favorite events each year is Step Sing. Zetas work hard to create a show that brings excitement and fun to the audience each year. This year, the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha transformed into mad scientists to present their show "Recipe for Disaster." Fun and familiar music, great choreography and an amazing theme enabled Zeta to pull off one of their best shows yet.

With all of these activities, the sisters of ZTA certainly stayed busy and made the 2008-2009 school year one to remember.

"Zetas participate in voluntary service projects, including mission trips, church camps and mentoring, on their own throughout the year."







Story: Emma Schell  
 Layout: Megan Marr  
 Photographs: Emma Schell







# Passing the Torch

## Lambda Chi Alpha

This year marked the four year anniversary of Lambda Chi Alpha returning to Samford's campus. The freshmen class that signed four years ago are now the seniors, and any memories of a year's probation have all but disappeared. What did the brothers of Lambda Chi do this year? The answer is business as usual.

Four short years ago, the future of Lambda Chi seemed uncertain, the fraternity had missed an entire year of recruitment and several members had left school, leaving a select few to maintain the remnants of the once proud fraternity. But morale was high and recruitment in the fall of 2005 proved to be a success. That trend continued through this year. This year was the first year that four full classes of members have existed within the fraternity since 2004. That trend will certainly continue after the "charter members" of the 2009 graduate class.

It seemed that when joining in 2005, the new class was starting from scratch. Some traditions and procedures have carried over from the old fraternity. But for the most part, what you see as Lambda Chi in the present is the realization of hard work put in by the brothers over the past four years. The state of the fraternity has done nothing but improve, and the physical evidence is seen in the Lambda Chi house. Over the past few years, various alumni have generously donated money to refurbish the fraternity house. The parlor room was recently redone, and the previous old-looking fraternity room is now one that any mother would be happy to have in her home. Project after project have improved the house little by little, which is a physical reflection of the progress the fraternity has made in its journey back to prominence.

Activities of this past year were nothing new or out of the ordinary for the brothers, who have settled into a comfortable operating procedure. Brothers were involved in all aspects of campus life, and the fraternity as a whole participated in intramurals, performed community service and held social events.

The brothers collected canned food as a part of their yearly participation in the North American Food Drive, Lambda Chi's national philanthropy. They also teamed up with Alpha Delta Pi in the fall semester in putting together shoe boxes full of small presents for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes were sent to children of impoverished nations for Christmas. And as always, they hosted their Spring Volleyball Classic which benefits Kid One Transport.

Lambda Chi also made its mark in intramurals. During this past year, the Lambda Chi volleyball team racked up another championship, marking its 10th consecutive volleyball championship. The oldest members of this year's team were only 12 years old when that first championship was won.

While the brothers were proud of their accomplishments, they were just as proud of the reemergence of a time honored tradition, The Caveman Party. A visit to the Lambda Chi house on September 18 led to an experience in a transformed house with walls and ceilings of the entire middle and downstairs resembling the inside of a cave. There were also plenty of animal skinned glad Lambda Chi brothers roaming around and an 80s rock band blaring Journey from the outside porch. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and the party was shut down prematurely due to noise complaints. This, however, did not discourage the brothers, as plans for next year's Caveman Party are well underway.

The brothers of Lambda Chi have full intentions of continuing old traditions and building the new as they carry on as an established campus organization.

"The brothers of Lambda Chi have full intentions of continuing old traditions and building the new."

Story: Drew Davis

Layout : Megan Marr

Photographs:





## Pi Kappa Phi

For the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi, the highlight of this year came during Step Sing season with their win of, not only the coveted Sweepstakes title, but also the audience's vote for Best Overall Show. Their show, directed by senior Adam Murphy and entitled "Open for Business," used such music as the theme song from the television show "The Office" and "I Don't Want to Work" by Todd Rundgren to portray a typical day in the workplace. Their neon "OPEN" sign prop can still be seen glowing in the window of the Pi Kapp house during the night.

In the short video preceding Pi Kapp's show, the audience was introduced to someone whose time at the Pi Kapp house, though brief, left lasting memories in the minds of the audience. That someone was Charles Bill Murray Norris or, simply, Chuck the groundhog. Chuck was found wandering around the Pi Kapp house at the beginning of the second semester, and a few of the brothers decided to take him in and care for him as one of their own. However, after many escape attempts by Chuck, the brothers decided that Chuck was born free and had the right to live free so they let him go.

Around this time, the Alpha Eta Chapter also welcomed 19 new members into their brotherhood. These associate members signed bids early in the fall and experienced most of Pi Kapp's annual social and philanthropic events throughout their first year with the fraternity. Pi Kapp's first dance of the year was the Southern Gentlemen's Ball, a semi-formal held at an ante-bellum estate located in downtown Birmingham called the Rucker Place. The brothers spent the night dancing with their dates to live music from the band, The Four Kicks.

Next came Homecoming weekend, and the Pi Kapps celebrated with an alumni BBQ get-together at the tailgate to give their former brothers the chance to share stories and reconnect with some old friends. The Alpha Eta Chapter is fortunate to have many active alumni. In fact, they recently created a "Pi Kapps of the 70s and 80s" group on Facebook and planned a reunion for next fall.

Homecoming weekend was also the time when Pi Kapp

brothers were seen pushing a wheelchair around campus for 72 hours straight collecting money for their philanthropy, Push America. Push America is a non-profit organization whose goal is to build leaders of tomorrow by serving people with disabilities today, not only through building projects that make buildings more handicaps accessible, but also by seeking to promote a greater understanding of people with disabilities. Pi Kapp is proud to be the only fraternity with a philanthropy founded and run solely by its own members, and the brothers of Alpha Eta were able to raise more than \$600 for the cause during the weekend.

In November, Pi Kapp held their annual Barn Bash party at the house of alumnus Jim Stephens in Bessemer, Ala. This western-themed party is always loved by the brothers and their dates, and this year was no different. Couples had fun keeping warm by the two bonfires, taking a hayride and dancing to the music of the Ray Stephenson Band. Over the holidays, the newly elected executive council of the Alpha Eta Chapter had the opportunity to drive to Charlotte, NC for the annual Pi Kapp mid-year conference. Each officer attended a day of meetings that prepared him for his job in the upcoming year. Around this time, the Alpha Eta Chapter was recognized for best newsletter in the "Star and Lamp," the publication of Pi Kappa Phi, and the brothers were very proud of the work that former historian Oliver Jones put into it. At the close of the spring semester, the Pi Kapps held another successful Red Rose Ball, their formal and final social event of the year where the awards for Brother of the Year and Associate Member of the Year were awarded.

Story: Jack Wilgus

Layout: Katie Conway

Photographs: Jack Wilgus

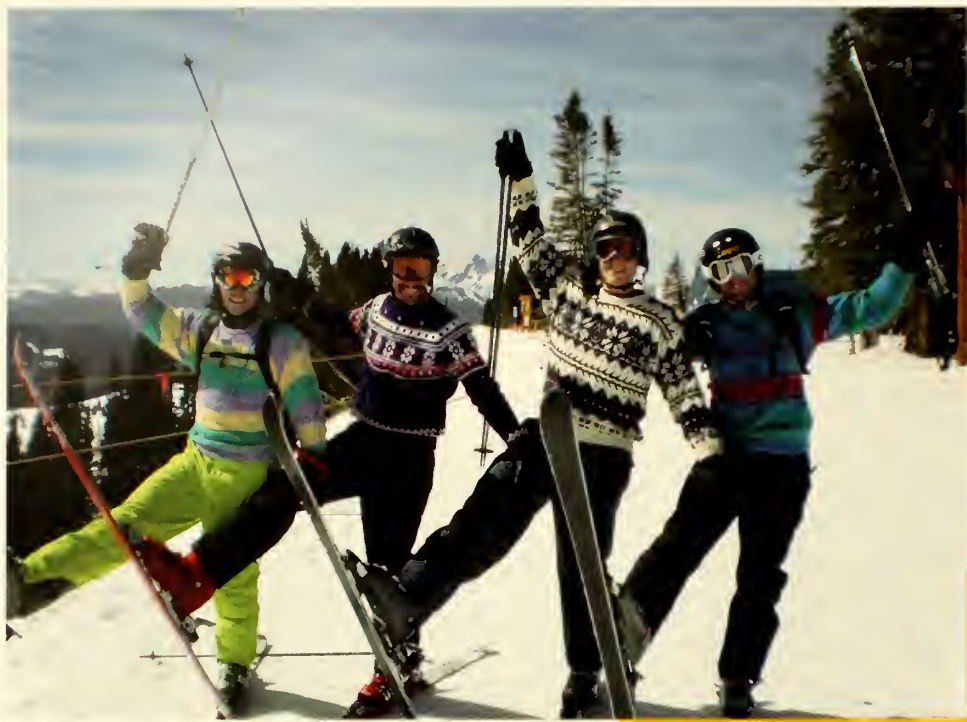




“Pi Kapp is proud to be the only fraternity with a philanthropy founded and run solely by its own members.”











# A low Profile Year

## Sigma Chi

All was quiet in West Campus this year as Sigma Chi substituted their usual semester of parties, mixers and Derby Days with time spent closer to the house. It was a year focused on brotherhood and Greek life.

The year kicked off with recruitment. As tradition, Sigma Chi hosted an Open House and cook-out in hopes of meeting potential members and showing them what being a Sigma Chi was all about. After accepting a bid, a sea of navy blue jackets and khaki pants was seen parading around campus as the new members settled into their new fraternity.

Once recruitment was complete, Sigma Chi focused on what makes a fraternity click: its members. This year bonding and respect were top the priorities. The guys said their favorite bonding activity each year is Step Sing. "Whatcha Talkin' Bout Wallace," the story of Braveheart, incorporated what every manly man would love in fighting, war paint and skirts. While they did not repeat last year's taking of the Sweepstakes, the guys said they enjoyed every moment of the preparation and performance weekend.

Although Sigma Chi was not hosting the traditional Derby Days, they were more than willing to get down and dirty in the First Annual Greek Week. All sororities and fraternities competed in

numerous field day activities including diving in the fountain. It was important to the Sigma Chi's to portray a competitive edge while supporting all other Greek organizations.

While this year was not big and glamorous for Sigma Chi, the brothers said they still felt present and unified on Samford's campus. They said they are itching to come back next year are ready to take on all the old traditions of the fraternity, as well as create some new ones.

Story: Megan Christians

Layout : Megan Marr

Photographs:

"While this year was not big and glamorous for Sigma Chi, the brothers said they still felt present and unified on Samford's campus."





# Involvement, Service & Academics

## Sigma Nu

This year's Iota Chapter of Sigma Nu achieved new heights in academics, community service and university participation. The seniors paved the way with their involvement in areas on and off campus. Biology major Trey Holmes and management major Chris George served on the Student Executive Board as the Chief of Staff and Chief Justice, pharmacy major John Higginbotham was commissioned as a second Lieutenant in the United States Military serving in the medical service corps and other seniors held leadership positions on various S.G.A. committees, The Bulldog Fund and Campus Outreach Ministries. The brotherhood unity and commitment to high standards continued to help the Iota Chapter stand out on campus. "This is the closest knit group of guys I have ever been around," sophomore business major Kyle Kehoe said.

The 2008 activities began with the annual Pig Roast. A tradition smelled throughout all West Campus, both members and non-members look forward to the event each year. "The sweet smoky smell of roasting pork put a smile on my face and a rumblin' in my tummy," junior public administration major Stephen Brett Bolton said.

Another strong fall recruitment led the Iota Chapter to grow out of the house. Its opening of doors to independents will have to close to house as many members as can fit. "The hospitality shown by the brothers of Sigma Nu towards an independent was great. I was constantly invited to the karaoke bonanza, pillow fights and the Tuesday night ice cream socials," Sigma Nu house resident and sophomore pre-business major Peter Carroll said.

While the guys are welcoming and open to non-members, the

ladies of Samford said the guys know how to show kindness to them as well. The 2008 Sigma Nu Sweetheart was senior nutrition and dietetics major Jessica Lauren Cheney. "The brothers of Sigma Nu continually showed me and all the other ladies on campus what it felt like to be a princess," Cheney said.

The brothers of Sigma Nu also spent time serving community. The Richardson family of Montevallo greatly appreciated the help of the Iota Chapter in building their Habitat for Humanity home. "Habitat for Humanity was an opportunity for our brothers to unite and build up the community one house at a time," sophomore Philanthropy Chair David Saunders said. Other service events included a blood drive on campus and the Old Howard 500 bike ride.

Academics also prove to be an integral part of the Iota Chapter of Sigma Nu. "People perceive us as a bunch of meat heads due to our massive chiseled biceps and rugged good looks. The reality is that we are a think tank of inquisitive

young minds that earned the highest Greek men's GPA this year," Academic Chair Daniel Cage said. In the midst of a busy year there was plenty of time for fun.

Other events hosted by Sigma Nu this year were the Family Tradition Pledge Bash, Halloween Party, Toga Party and White Rose Formal. The brothers also spent time supporting Samford athletics. Freshman Sigma Nu football player and pre-engineering major Emory Jones said he appreciated the support at games. "The guys really took pride in Samford athletics. They have great school spirit," Jones said. This year Sigma Nu camped out for the Davidson basketball game and made the news on three local television channels.

"The seniors paved the way with their involvement in areas on and off campus."

Story: Aaron Weber

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Alex Cloke











# More than What's *Seen*

## Sigma Phi Epsilon

Unity, laid-back and chill are words used by junior history major and Sig Ep member Adam Gadberry used to define his fraternity.

Starting in the fall, the guys came on campus eager to find new recruits and build up their name. The Pete Hanna Center hosted Sig Ep's rush parties. The members and potential recruits used the facility to mingle in a relaxed atmosphere and get to know each other before bid day. At the end of recruitment, the brothers had one lucky member join the fraternity. The rest of the semester was focused on open recruitment and brotherhood activities including group dinners.

With spring semester came two brotherhood retreats. The first was near Huntingdon College in southern Alabama. It was an all-day rafting adventure. The brothers also had the opportunity to work

security at the Sister Hazel concert, courtesy of their former Chapter Advisor, Craig Garner.

The brothers of Sig Ep also took a day to sing their hearts out to the sororities on campus. Several of the sororities were honored to hear the Sweetheart Song of Sig Ep.

Sig Ep was spotted multiple times on the intramural field. The fraternity competed in flag football, soccer, softball, dodgeball and volleyball.

“Although Sig Ep holds a low-key profile, they have members who are dedicated to a fraternity of closeness and brotherhood.”

During the Samford football season, Sig Ep participated with other Greek organizations in the Tailbird Tailgate area, grilling out and mingling with other fraternities and sororities.


Although Sig Ep holds a low-key profile, they have members who are dedicated to a fraternity of closeness and brotherhood.

Story: Megan Christians

Layout : Megan Marr

Photographs: Alex Cloke





“ Just as a body, though one,  
has many parts, but all its  
many parts form one body, so  
it is with Christ. ”

*1st Corinthians 12:12*

Photographs: Ben Frederick









# Samford Sports

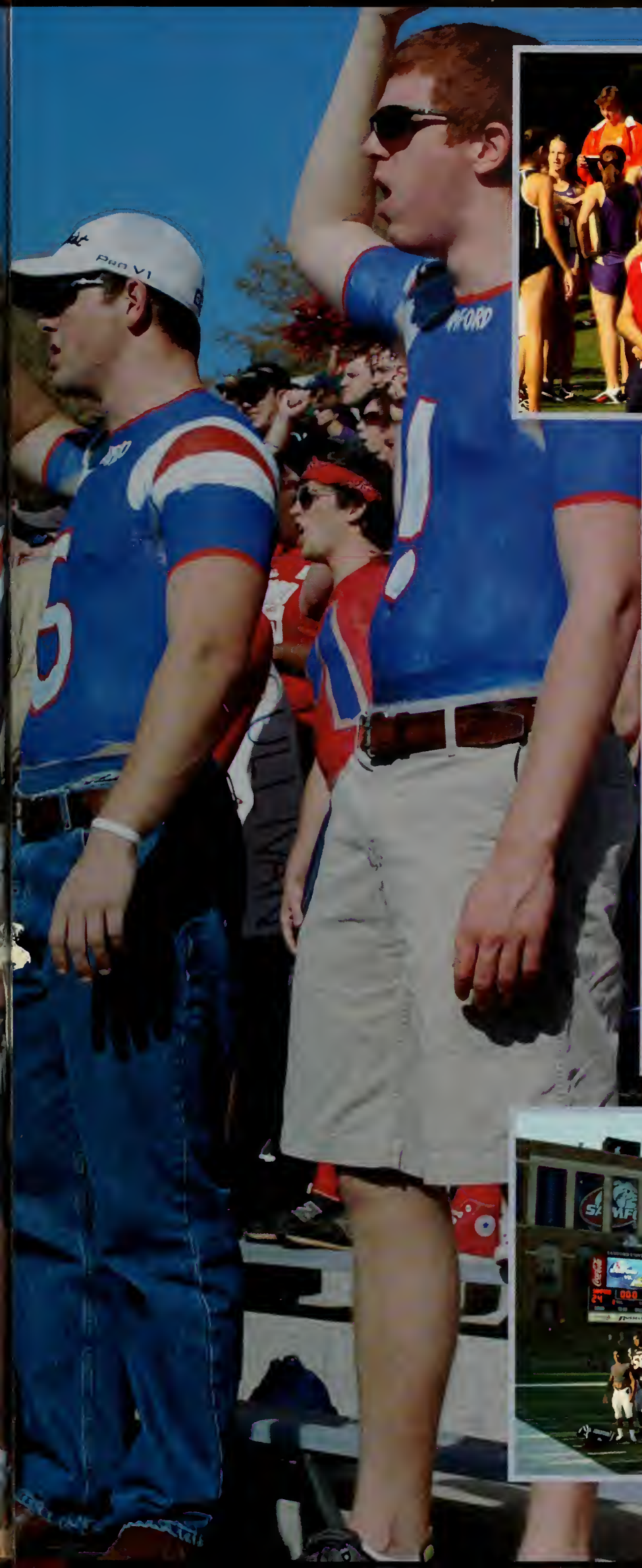
**P**robably some of the most intense environments on Samford's campus can be found surrounding the scene of Varsity athletics.

From practice, to early morning conditioning sessions, to actual games or competitions, athletes are constantly pouring out every ounce of energy and drive within them to give it their all. On top of this, athletes must re-engage into the life of a college student and take care of the everyday tasks that are to be completed for graduation's sake.

While there is more to life than athletics, the athletes are quick to discover that their respective sports play a pivotal role in defining who they are in college as well as whom they will become down the road. Every moment of set back, victory or perseverance brings challenge and experience from which athletes can build their faith and character.

When all is said and done at the end of each year, Samford athletes are able to walk away from the court, field, track and overall experience saying, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). Work that is done for the Lord is not done in vain, even pertaining to sports. Most athletes can attest that the majority of the growth they experience in college is found in the *striving* to compete to the best of their God-given abilities.









## SoCon, So What?

Inaugural year in SoCon plays favor to Bulldogs

**F**irst impressions are hard to shake, and that's great for Samford athletics.

In the first year in the SoCon, the Bulldogs exceeded all expectations and showed their competitors that this conference was their stomping ground. The fall and winter sports "were as strong as any team in the league," athletic director Bob Roller said. They were simply the rookies, but they played like pros.

"We gained the respect of our peers in the conference clearly during the first year," Roller said. "Many coaches and athletic directors have kidded us by saying things like, 'You guys were supposed to let us beat you in the first few years!'"

But that message failed to reach the Bulldogs. Instead, they defied the odds and carved their niche in the SoCon.

The Bulldogs' football team finished their season with a winning record of 6-5 and made an "immediate impression," Roller said. They posted a conference record of 4-4

despite being picked to finish last in the league.

With the higher competition level, the Bulldogs entertained bigger crowds.

"Our crowds were excellent this year, and the familiarity of our SoCon opponents really helped with the Red Sea student crowd and our crowds from Samford alums," Roller said.

Seibert Stadium saw its third largest crowd in history of 10,670 in the match-up with Appalachian State.

The Pete Hanna Center also enjoyed a record crowd this year during the Davidson basketball game, and the team did not disappoint. In a close contest, the Bulldogs fell short of victory by only three points and held the nation's leading scorer, Stephen Curry, to a 30 percent field goal percentage.

Another highlight for the men's basketball team was the SoCon Tournament.

"Our men's basketball team had a strong run in the SoCon Tournament, upsetting The Citadel and reaching







the semi-finals," Roller said. The men were ousted by Chattanooga, who went on to win the tournament.

Not only did the men's basketball team fare well, but the women's basketball team also had its share of the spotlight on the court. The Bulldogs finished with a second place conference finish in the first season in the league.

Morris was also recognized as the SoCon Women's Basketball Coach of the Year in a vote by media and head coaches. This "tremendous honor for Samford," as Roller described it, was Morris's second coach of the year honor in four years.

Along with the women's basketball team, the women's cross country team brought home a second place conference finish in the fall.

Tiffin said the finish showed that "we belong in this conference."

"Some might have been apprehensive about the level of competition, but we showed we can be a big part of who wins," he added.

The volleyball team revealed that as well. The Bulldogs claimed a divisional championship and had the SoCon Player of the Year, first-year law student Ashley Adams.

All the women's teams added to another honor for the Bulldogs.

"Our women's programs were in contention for the coveted Germann Cup, which is presented to the finest overall athletics program in the

league, until the last sport of the season was concluded," Roller said. "We will most likely finish second out of 12 institutions in this first year."

The Bulldogs built a strong foundation for themselves as members of the SoCon and proved to themselves and competitors that the conference is their home.

"Our future is very bright in the SoCon as our coaches and student-athletes now have a year under their respective belts," Roller said. "We know the travel schedule and the level of competition. Now it's up to us to keep improving."

Story: Lauren Sharpe

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Stephen Nelson, Julian Hollar and Leah Jane Henderson



# Establishing a *Real* Presence

## Changes & New Traditions



With a new conference to embrace, Samford athletics found that old ways would just not make the cut with the big competition changes. The athletics marketing department spent countless days preparing for ways to enhance Samford athletics and bring new traditions with the move to the Southern Conference.

To help bring new traditions to life, students representing all areas of campus were gathered during the spring of 2008 to form a panel that would help the Athletics Department take the right steps in forming these new traditions. The focus of this panel, called the Athletics Summit, was to discuss ways to bridge the gap between Samford athletes and the general student body in order to heighten the excitement at all the athletic events.

The panel concluded that knowing the athletes on a more personal level would draw more attention and fans to games. They also recognized the fact that schools showing immense athletic support have various rituals and traditions that are done before, during and after games and events. With the students seeking to build the community that already exists overall on campus as well as initiate great athletic traditions, the student body representatives and student-athletes agreed to work together to make the inaugural year in the SoCon an inaugural year of distinct Samford athletic traditions.

Among these traditions was the Tallbird Tailgate, where tents and activities were set up in the parking lots outside of the University Center in and around Tallbird Circle. The Caf served meals, campus and community organizations grilled/provided food for their members, and Samford athletics hosted corn hole and Wii tournaments. The

festivities were then led to Seibert Stadium by the Samford Marching Band. With the drum line in the lead, students and fans marched from Tallbird Circle across Dawson Drive and into the Pete Hanna Side of the stadium bringing energy and excitement to the opening kickoff.

Samford athletics also wanted to make the field-level area of the track somewhat of a sacred place for the athletes and participants. In previous years, the Greeks would set up tents behind the end zone of the Seibert side of the field. This year, only official participants were allowed on the field level.

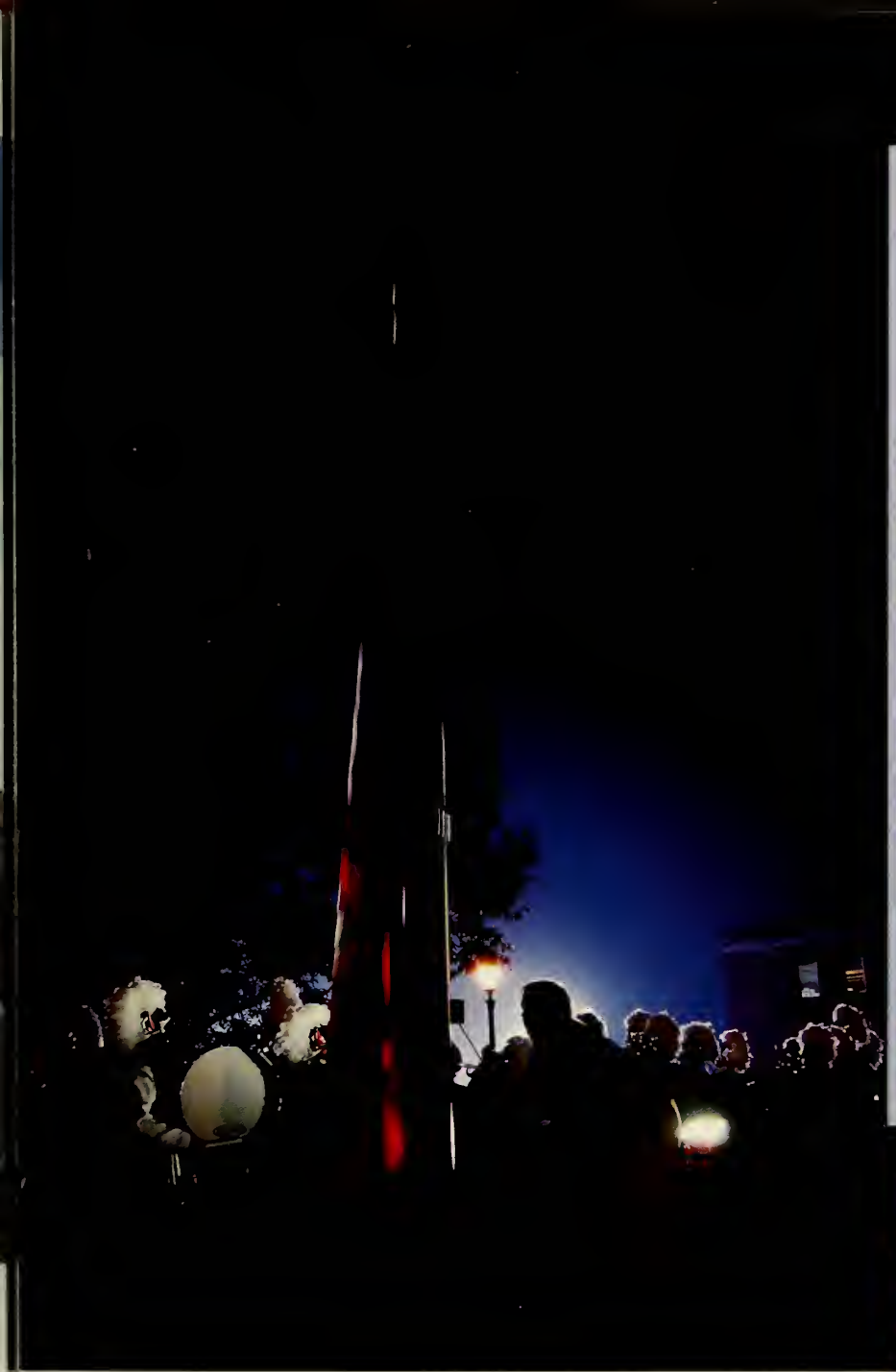
At the conclusion of a home game win, the band led the crowd from Seibert Stadium to the newly-placed flagpole at the four-way stop by Tallbird Circle, and the Samford Fight Song was played as the Bulldog flag was raised.

The flag flew high and proud for the remainder of the week until the next game that was played.

Another major addition to the Samford athletic community and traditions was the introduction of the live bulldog mascot, Lady Liberty, aka "Libby." Libby is owned by Vestavia Hills residents David and Rhoda Oser and made her debut at the SoCon Fanfest on October 28. She showed support through several appearances to football games and other athletic events throughout the year. Her co-mascot, Spike,

"The flag flew high and proud for the remainder of the week until the next game that was played."





received a make-over this year and debuted his new look at the October 11 game against Appalachian State.

With a brand new arena, the basketball and volleyball teams were given attention through the development of traditions throughout their inaugural SoCon seasons as well. Davidson brought NCAA stand-out Stephen Curry to Samford on January 31, and the crowd that was expected to be drawn from the student body as well as the community led the Athletics Department to initiate the "White Out" tradition. T-shirts were made and sold for the event, and students were encouraged to wear all white to show support and unity in the men's game against the Wildcats.

President Andy Westmoreland's support for Samford Athletics brought to life many of the traditions and ideas that had been circling the department for years. The move to the SoCon and desire of all members of the Samford community to embrace the changes has led to athletic traditions that surely will stand the test of time.

Story: Val Kikkert

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Michelle Darden, Evan Chandlee,  
Leah Jane Henderson & Julian Hollar



# Deeper the Sea, *Higher* the Pride

## The Red Sea

On the Saturday afternoon of game day, painted bodies, red and blue pompoms, roaring thunder sticks and distinct “You Can’t Divide the Red Sea” T-shirts filled the first four rows of the student section in Seibert Stadium to standing room only. These dedicated fans who arrived ready to cheer the Bulldogs to victory were members of the official student booster club of Samford athletics, the Red Sea.

Since its founding in 2005, the

more than 1,200 students. More importantly, the Red Sea hoped to get more students to come out to support their Bulldogs. The move to the Southern Conference prompted the athletic department and Red Sea to emphasize school spirit and game attendance more than just the perks of membership.

With the new opponents in the SoCon and the introduction of the Talbird Tailgate before home football games, more students came out to cheer on the Bulldogs.

“I think the Red Sea has worked really hard this year to encourage attendance and has succeeded in getting people to the football games,” sophomore nursing major Alison

them to be an integral part of the game day experience. With the fight song, kick-off chants and cheers during every play, the Red Sea led the crowd in volume and spirit. From the starting whistle to the final play, the Red Sea spirit illuminated the stadium. For sophomore journalism and mass communication major Alan Harned, the Red Sea provided a “sense of community and pride in Samford.” Spirit, excitement and pride radiated from Red Sea members. The introduction of Red Sea T-shirt slogans such as “Red is the Color of Passion” and “Seeing Red, Good for Us, Bad for You” demonstrated the club’s creativity and competitive nature that thrived among members.

The common sight of member T-shirts around campus showed how the Red Sea became more than simply a game day ritual. It was an influence on the daily happenings around campus. Just as the quote on the club’s T-shirt says, “You Can’t Divide the Red Sea,” the Samford student nation represented unity, pride and support among the Samford community.

Story: Carter Jones

Layout: Lauren Sharpe

Photographs: Evan Chandlee

“From the starting whistle to the final play, the Red Sea spirit illuminated the stadium.”

Red Sea has been the heart and soul of the student cheering section at football games, basketball games and other sporting events throughout the year. For only \$10, new members receive a membership card, discount coupons for businesses close to campus, a six pack of soda and an official Red Sea T-shirt.

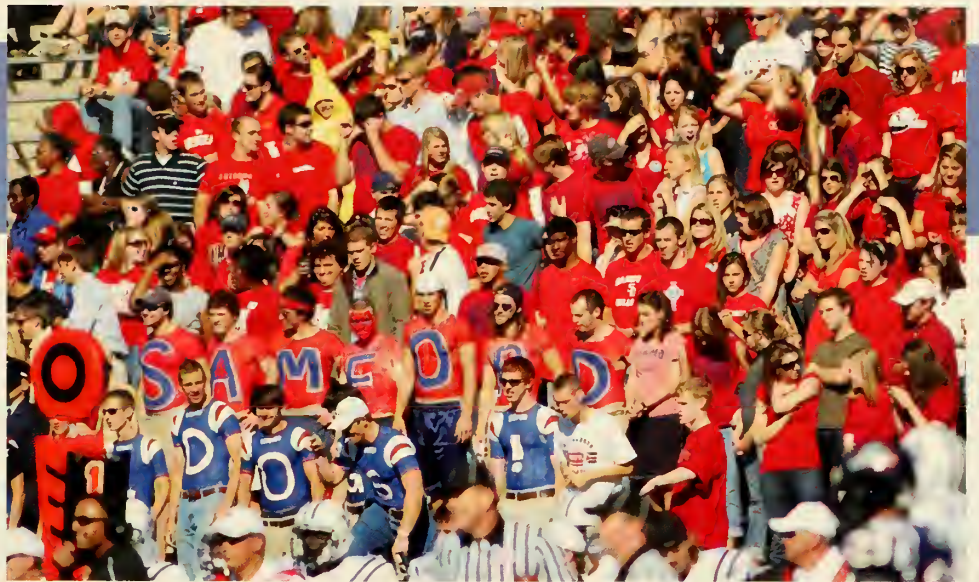
This year, the Samford student nation worked hard to break last year’s membership record of

Johnston said during the Appalachian State football game on October 11. The Appalachian State match-up hosted the third highest attendance in Seibert Stadium’s history. Students were a large contribution to the record attendance, and the Red Sea was at the forefront of this new trend of student support for Samford’s athletic teams.

Members appreciated the opportunity the Red Sea provided







Photos clock-wise: Seibert Stadium saw more constant fans throughout the football team's inaugural season in SoCon. Spike also recieved a new look this year.





# Sizing Up to a *New* Standard

## Pete Hanna Center



In November 2007, Samford opened a new \$32 million sport-fitness and special events center as part of the campus improvement campaign called “The Promise.” This state-of-the-art facility was named Pete Hanna Center after a Samford letterman who scored one of the first touchdowns on Seibert Field.

The main attraction of the center is the arena, which seats 5,000 for basketball and volleyball games and up to 6,000 for concerts and commencements. This arena was named Thomas E. and Marla H. Corts Arena after Samford’s late president and his wife.

“The Bulldogs were ready for improvement, and the new 132,000 square-foot Hanna Center more than accommodates the needed growth.”

Before the Hanna Center, basketball and volleyball games were played in Seibert Gym, students worked out in the infamous Cage and commencement was held off campus.

Students most often complained of the Cage’s lack of space and the limited and out-of-date athletic equipment. The small workout area was overcrowded and inconvenient for students. Seibert, as a home to Samford’s varsity athletic teams, was out of date, having been built in 1961. The Bulldogs were ready for improvement, and the new 132,000 square-foot Hanna Center more than accommodates the needed growth.

The Center is located on West Campus amidst the majority of the athletic facilities. Students and athletes enjoy its spacious size, quality equipment and brand new locker rooms.

Shelby Brandon, freshman pre-dentistry major and right side hitter for the Bulldog volleyball team, said, “It has been so great for my team to have such a nice weight room to use, and the training room is amazing. It was great this past semester to come in as a freshman and be in the Pete Hanna for my first season on the team.”

Even though the gym was not filled for volleyball games, the size of the Corts Arena provides promise for the Samford Bulldog Athletic program.





Its size encourages Bulldog fans to attend more games in support of the Division I athletes who dedicate so much to their sport.

Freshman undeclared major John Peterson, a forward for the men's basketball team, spoke on behalf of the men's basketball team regarding the facility. "I think it's the right size, especially with the turn out for the Davidson Game," he said. Although the seats weren't filled at all basketball games, the Davidson game proved that the Hanna Center provides the necessary space and high standards for Samford basketball.

While students enjoy cheering on the athletes in such a nice, spacious and clean facility, most of all they appreciate the 5,000 square foot workout facility on the third floor of the Center. Students enjoy the variety and amount of workout equipment

available. Senior biology major Rocky Ailing said, "The Pete Hanna workout center is perfect. The facility is great because it has free weights, machines and a lot of treadmills and ellipticals."

Since its opening, the Hanna Center has benefited both students and athletes. With something for everyone, the Center has the promise that fitness, school spirit and athletic success will grow as big as its size.

Story: Craig Kleimeyer

Layout : Megan Marr

Photographs: Julian Hollar



# Running the *Race* Marked Out

The life of an athlete: Cameron Bean

**P**ractice, class, lunch, labs, homework, practice, dinner, bed, repeat: a typical day for Cameron Bean.

Five-thirty a.m. seems like a ridiculously early time to even be discussing, but for senior track and cross country runner and biology, pre-med major Cameron Bean, it was just the typical start for his week. He kicked off his mornings with either a 5K or 8K run or swimming. Tuesday and Thursdays usually consisted

of cross training-like swimming, and the rest of the week consisted of running.

The day followed suit with ice baths to keep him from getting sore and after came classes, lunch, labs, homework, practice, dinner and sleep, just to do it all over the next day.

As if his life didn't revolve around running enough, his Saturdays were completely devoted to track and cross country. Cross country season is in the fall and consists of one 5K race and

then three 8K races. Regionals are 10K races. During the winter and spring, he ran indoor and outdoor track, and many of those races consisted of 3,000 meter steeples, which are simply about 26 vicious laps around a track equivalent to the size of our once-existing Samford track.

Sundays are usually a day of rest for most Samford students, and that was exactly what Cameron attempted to do. With running being the intense sport that it is, he was in much need of rest and chose to do so by worshipping the Lord at Red Mountain Church. He also used Sundays to catch up on schoolwork and had the theory that keeping up on work, kept him from getting behind. "Do a little, breathe a little," Cameron said. He managed to do both and live the life of an athlete.

Cameron mentioned he was amazed at the fact that many students complain about not having time to do anything during Step Sing season. To himself, he responded

to these complaints with, "Well, welcome to my life." With such a committed lifestyle, it is questionable on whether or not he had time for social life. Cameron said staying motivated was the hard part. The weekdays were for running and class, and the weekends were for socializing and doing whatever he may have wanted to do. As for juggling family life, Cameron said it wasn't really an issue. He is from Chattanooga so he was just a few hours away.

"Competing in the SoCon, meets are closer so I get to see my family more often," Cameron said.

It is obvious that school, work, athletics and life can be stressful, but student-athletes must run the race swiftly with endurance and stand to raise the bar. Cameron has certainly proved that it is possible. With a high GPA and dental school on the horizon, he didn't leave much room for slack.

"Cameron's endurance capabilities come from hours of (running) out on the streets, paths and trails of Homewood, logging many miles of running coupled with an ability to push his body to the limits," head track and cross country coach Rod Tiffin said.

Cameron's college experience has been very different from that of a typical student, but he hasn't taken one minute of it for granted.

"The most amazing thing about being an athlete is getting to experience the normal college experience but getting to experience 10 times better, kinda like a movie in high definition," Cameron said.



"The most amazing thing about being an athlete is getting to experience the normal college experience, but 10 times better, kinda like a movie in high definition."





Shot: Carter Jones  
 Layout: Lauren Sharpe  
 Photographs: Cameron Bean,  
 Jordan Jarvis & Ina Ables



# Hitting home runs and *shooting* for the moon

The life of an athlete: Aaren Fisher

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5:45 a.m.

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For most Samford students, waking up regularly at 5:45 in the morning is simply unimaginable, unless of course they never went to sleep the night before. But for junior softball player Aaren Fisher, 6 a.m. workouts are just another part of the job description for what it takes to be an NCAA Division I college athlete. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the fall semester, Aaren is up early with her teammates running, sprinting and lifting weights in preparation for the upcoming season.

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7:30 a.m.

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Next, Aaren is off to the Caf for breakfast. "I love eating breakfast," Aaren said. "It gets me going; it's also like my quiet time to think and plan out and prepare for my day." And Aaren needs that extra time to regroup and prepare for the hectic day that awaits her.

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8:00 a.m.

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Classes monopolize Aaren's time until about 11:00 a.m. every day. A nutrition/dietetics major and French minor, Aaren maintains a high GPA while taking classes such as anatomy and chemistry. She aspires to become a nutritionist for NASA astronauts preparing to go into space.

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11:00 a.m.

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After classes is the all important lunch hour. This is a time for Aaren to relax with teammates and friends before practice.

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1:00 p.m.

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In the afternoon, Aaren's time is devoted completely to softball. She constantly shifts between batting practice, outfield practice and team practice until dinner. In the fall, the softball team practices six days a week and has 10 pre-season games. During the spring season, Aaren is expecting to play over 70 games while also sustaining this frenzied schedule.

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5:00 p.m.

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Following practice, Aaren and her teammates make one final trip to the Caf for dinner. Aaren is then off to the library, study group or her dorm room to study. "I spend three hours every

night studying depending on whether or not I have a test, then I study more," Aaren said. "I always put academics first, then softball because I know softball will not support me in a future career."

But she loves playing softball at Samford and said she was very excited about coming to the South to pursue her passion for sport. "Aaren is an outstanding offensive player and seems to have a knack for coming through in the clutch. You never have to question her effort or intensity," head softball coach Beanie Ketchum said.

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10:30 p.m.

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It's lights out for Aaren and the rest of the team in anticipation of another day in the life of a Samford softball player.

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Spare Time/Weekends

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In the rare event that Aaren's day is not jammed-packed and over-scheduled, she maintains time to dedicate to friends, family as well as herself. For Aaren, the biggest key to her success as a collegiate student athlete is "excellent time management. I know how long I need to study, and I know how long I need to take just for myself."

Coming to Birmingham from Las Vegas, short weekend trips home are not an option. Thus, she works extra hard to preserve her relationship with her parents back home and her brother in Oklahoma. She talks on the phone frequently with her family and dedicates at least 30 minutes of every weekend to catch up on life with them.

Despite all the hard work and time that Aaren pours into her studies and softball, she does not forget to have a good time and enjoy her college years. Like any typical Samford student, Aaren spends the majority of her free time bowling, going to the dollar theatre and simply hanging out with her teammates and other friends. Even as a dedicated athlete and serious student, Aaren is diligent in building relationships with new college friends, maintaining family bonds 1,800 miles away from home and experiencing everything that college life has to offer.

Story: Matt Westberry

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Aaren Fisher,

Jordan Jarvis & Leah Jane Henderson

**"The biggest key to success as a collegiate student athlete is excellent time management. I know how long I need to study, and I know how long I need to take just for myself."**







# Against All Odds

Football



“All of the media didn't give us a chance, and we ended up at 6-5.”

As the new team in the SoCon, the Bulldog football team had the odds against them. They weren't expected to do well, much less compete. In fact, the Bulldogs were projected to finish last and win only two games by the Preseason Coaches Poll. However, the Bulldogs defied the odds, tied for fifth and posed a winning record of 6-5.

It was a situation and an experience that was new for all of us,” head coach Pat Sullivan said. “We had a chance to win and lose a lot of games. The intangibles, like the chemistry on the team, were really good. The leadership we got from our seniors was really excellent. All of the media didn't give us a chance, and we ended up at 6-5. The level of competition in the Southern Conference is really high, and this season taught us that we can compete against the big teams.”

One of those big teams was the SEC's Ole Miss. The Bulldogs opened their season with two non-conference home wins against West Georgia and Faulkner before hitting the road to play the Rebels. The team said that if a few calls went differently, they could have held their ground in Oxford. Even though the 10-34 loss wasn't as close as they would have liked, the game gave them confidence for the rest of the season.

While the Ole Miss game was key, senior linebacker and fitness and health promotion major Rodney Shepherd thought the games against Elon and Western Carolina were big statements. The Bulldogs fell to eighth-ranked Elon, 17-23, and beat Western Carolina by a margin of 15 points, 21-6.

“Western Carolina was one of the teams that scheduled us to be a Homecoming game,” defensive MVP Shepherd said. “They came into the game thinking it would be an easy game, but we came out with a big win. With Elon, even though we lost, we were still motivated because they were second in the conference, and we felt like we could hang with the big teams after that.”

And hang they did. When three-time defending national champions Appalachian State came to visit, the Bulldogs proved the SoCon to be their stomping ground. Playing in front of a record crowd of 10,670, Seibert Stadium's third largest in history, the Bulldogs battled the Mountaineers until the final quarter. The game was closer than the 24-35 score showed.

The Furman game was even closer. The Paladins won the previous four match-ups between the schools, and the Bulldogs fought to end the streak. Having battled back with 20 points in the fourth quarter alone, the Bulldogs walked away heartbroken, losing 28-27 after redshirt sophomore and political science major John Paul Fraites' extra point attempt was blocked with less than two minutes left in the game.

The team as a whole contributed to the success, but some players finished with added honors. Freshman quarterback and business major Dustin Taliaferro was named SoCon Freshman of the Year. Redshirt sophomore running back and pre-pharmacy major Chris Evans and





Patrick Hatcher



Brock Johnson



Harris Johnson



Chris Evans



Kanon Burt

redshirt sophomore defensive lineman and exercise science major Patrick Hatcher were named to First Team All-Conference, while redshirt senior offensive lineman and biology major Mitchell Waters, junior defensive back and business major Andy Davis and sophomore linebacker and physical education major Bryce Smith were named to Second Team All-Conference.

Evans was also named the team's offensive MVP. He finished the season with 1,352 yards and 14 touchdowns and praises not himself, but his team for its effort. "We just stuck to the same routine," Evans said. "We watched films of the other teams' games and players, went to practices and did what we needed to get better. We don't believe in moral victories, we just put it out on the field. The coaches did a great job getting us prepared. We had a lot of motivation because a lot of people thought we wouldn't do well. We did a good job stepping up and coming up with some wins."

The inaugural season in the SoCon proved the Bulldogs' stamina and potential. The Samford community as a whole was proud of the outcome, and Sullivan said he "can't thank the students, the faculty and the fans enough for all their support. It means a lot more to our players than they know, and we hope to see them in the coming fall."

Story: Shafiq Islam

Layout: Lauren Sharpe

Photographs: Evan Chandlee & Julian Hollar



Keith Jones, Thomas Gray, Dustin Taliaferro



# Setting a Different Tone

## Volleyball

This year's volleyball season started August 8 with three-a-day practices, three days a week for pre-season training. In order to set a solid foundation, the team worked on the basics of serving, passing, defending and learning and understanding each other as a team. This was the beginning of an era for new head coach Derek Schroeder's three-phase program that would lead the team to an excellent season.

Phase two, establishing a top position in the SoCon, began after the team's first game against in-state rivals, the Auburn Tigers. The Bulldogs pulled a confidence-boosting upset with a 3-0 sweep over the Tigers.

"We were fired up the whole game and never let down," sophomore captain and education major Hillary Fountain said. "The whole team was pretty much unstoppable. This was a huge win for us because it was the first game of the season and it let everyone in our conference and in the volleyball circuit know that we were a whole different Samford volleyball team that no one had seen before." The team was picked to finish fourth in the North Division of the SoCon in the preseason coaches poll and was determined to prove that they were a stronger team than general expectations.

The team continued to raise the bar throughout the rest of the season and went into the conference tournament with a 10-1 conference record. With the Bulldog's first year in the SoCon, the team had everything to prove, and Schroeder said he felt the girls had successfully established Samford as a team to beat in the last part of the season.

As the team entered phase three, they continued training and preparing as well as possible for the conference tournament. In the first round of the tournament, the Bulldogs pulled a 3-0 win against Davidson to advance to the next round of tournament play. However, the team fought Furman for five games to a devastating loss in the second round.

"I pointed them in the right direction, but the girls did most of the work. This was the most fun I have ever had as a coach and the best relationship I have ever felt with my team. At the end of the year we should be able to say 'we did it together,'" Schroeder said.

Despite failing to earn the conference championship, individual players were recognized. Senior transfer and Cumberland Law student Ashley Adams led the team in hitting percentage throughout the season and was named SoCon Player of the Year. She was later given All-Region honors for her offensive performance throughout the season. "The award was a big surprise being new to Samford's team and the SoCon," Adams said. "It was a great feeling winning that award my senior year because I will never have that chance again, but a conference championship would have been even better."

In their first season in the SoCon, the Bulldogs were statistics leaders in all but three categories. The first full season in the Pete Hanna Center attributed to a level of confidence at home matches. Players also said the team chemistry experienced this year made the biggest difference regarding its success. "Everyone worked well together all season long. We really loved each other and were very close as a team, which together helped to make a successful team and season," Adams said.

Senior captain and biology major Courtney Gay commented on hopes for next season saying, "I expect this team to dominate in the SoCon next season again. I will miss all of the 7 a.m. weights and afternoon practices, but most of all I will miss the girls. I know they will have no problem next season and the ones to follow because they are all so determined to improve."

"At the end of the year,  
we should be able to  
say we did it together."



Story: Maggie Bridges  
Layout: Lauren Sharpe  
Photographs: Stephen Nelson









# Testing True *Character*

## Women's Soccer



**L**ife lessons will teach that digging oneself a hole only requires finding a way to climb back out – and the women's soccer team can attest to that after the 2008 fall season.

Leaving the 2007 season on a high note with Samford's first ever at-large bid to an NCAA tournament, the team's pre-conference schedule boasted games against some of the top programs in the Southeast. Not only was the competition tough, every game was on foreign turf. After a few close losses (and some not-so-close losses), the team found themselves with a 1-7 record

going into its inaugural season in the Southern Conference.

"We were low in confidence and team morale going into our first SoCon season," senior co-captain and nursing major Cayley Winters said. "It was a difficult place to be for each individual player as well. The competition was high for every position on the field, and we hadn't scored any goals or figured out how to put the pieces together."

The first glimmer of hope came during the team's first home weekend against Elon and UNC-Greensboro.

**"I think our strong finish in the SoCon proved to everybody that we belong there and deserve to be respected"**

The Bulldogs swept Elon 3-0 in front of an enthusiastic Friday night crowd and played UNC-G to a double-overtime 0-0 tie on a perfect





Sunday afternoon. UNC-G had won the regular season championship for the past two years and was on an 18-game undefeated streak in conference match-ups, so the Bulldogs gained a boost of confidence after such a solid weekend.

As the season went on, the team continued to get the job done on the field. After being picked to finish fourth in the pre-season coaches poll, the Bulldogs finished third and just one win shy of placing second behind UNC-G. "I think our strong finish in the SoCon proved to everybody that we belong there and deserve to be respected," junior co-captain and nursing major Caroline Baxter said. "After such a rough pre-conference schedule, we showed what we were really made of through the success in the regular season games."

With high hopes of a second consecutive visit to the NCAA tournament, the Bulldogs defeated the College of Charleston in penalty kicks for a trip to Charleston, SC for the conference tournament. They faced Western Carolina University in the semi-finals game Friday night. The Bulldogs defeated the Catamounts two weeks prior on the Catamount's senior day. After a sloppy game of soccer, the Catamounts stole the win, sending the Bulldogs home and putting an end to their season.

"I think that the future is very bright for us," Yelton said. "We have a

tremendously young squad and great team chemistry. Our players are great individuals and I think they are a talented lot." The Bulldogs graduated five seniors this year, none of whom held starting positions at the end of the season.

At the end of the season, players and coaches said that it was about a lot more than soccer this year. Not only did the women give all they had at every practice and game, but they spent time off the field serving the Birmingham community. Initiated by new assistant coach and former Bulldog captain Sharon Young, some players helped in a Monday night soccer clinic with kids who live in inner-city Birmingham.

"I loved being able to serve those kids with the talents and gifts that I've been given," senior physical education major Candace Clippard said. "It's really awesome to be able take what we know about soccer and pour it into the next generation of Birmingham."

Through recruitment and the four-year experience, players said there is and has always been something different about the program. Yelton said he believes in building the character of each player through her experience in Samford soccer, whether it be on the field or off the field.

Story: Val Kikkert  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Stephen Nelson





# Same Game, *new* Face

## Men's Club Soccer

**R**ecognition was the name of the game this year for men's club soccer. With new coaches, new uniforms and new intensity, the Bulldogs joined the ranks as an organized team. What was just like any other after school hobby became just like any other varsity sport. This year men's soccer was better recognized both on campus and on a national scale.

For senior captain and religion major Caleb Foust, a huge reason for the success was the players' seriousness. "The team as a whole came together after our first loss and decided to be serious," Foust said. "We started to be at practices on time and working together on the field. We started to have lots of communication and a game plan. Because of this we were able to score goals, which also helped quite a bit." Freshman psychology major and goal keeper Patrick Locke agreed that teamwork steadily progressed from the beginning of the season.

Foust attributed improvements in team chemistry to leadership of players and especially a new coaching staff. This season was the first with coaches who were not players. Coaches Mateo Patel and Tomas Fox both have international playing experience and contributed significantly to the team.

"They were able to keep people involved," Foust said. "We knew they had valuable knowledge and experience which could help us progress and it did. They were heavy contributors on the attitude we developed of a team mentality." Locke said coaches enabled the team to get the most out of practice. "Instead of having to waste time debating on drills, everything was set up and ready to go," he said.

The improvements in teamwork and leadership led to success on the field. The Bulldogs finished the season 7-2-4, a drastic improvement from last year's losing record of 0-0-10. A team

everyone could easily beat transformed into a team to compete in the matter of one year, as proven in ties with SEC teams Ole Miss and Alabama.

With a winning record, the team received a national ranking of 20th and an invitation to the national tournament. The Bulldogs were the second highest ranked team in Alabama. Auburn was ranked 17th. After the tournament, the team was ranked 12th. Foust said the ranking was a confidence booster after finishing last year at 78th.

Tournament success was not as good as hoped, but both Foust and Locke said the team played well with only 13 players. Exhaustion led to losses to Iowa State and Villanova before

falling to tournament champion Virginia Tech. Foust said he was proud of the team and that it represented Samford well.

The team's future looks promising. Another big attribute to the team's success

**"A team everyone could easily beat transformed into a team to compete."**

was the recognition and support from Dr. Westmoreland. As the relationship with administration and the athletic department improves, word is getting out about men's soccer. Hopes linger to become an official NCAA sport, perhaps the best recognition of all.

Story: Lauren Sharpe

Layout: Lauren Sharpe

Photographs: Jane Cunningham  
and Dubose Ratchford









# Running Out the Old, Bringing In the *New*

## Men's & Women's Cross Country



**W**ith a new coach, a foreign practice track and a different pool of competition, the men's and women's cross country teams faced challenges and proved that adversity can bring out the best in a team.

The season opened in Nashville, Tenn. at the Belmont Invitational where the women tied for fourth and men grabbed the fifth place. Freshman undeclared major Andrea Seccafien led the women and senior biology major Cameron Bean led the men. The teams were able to feel out their strengths and weaknesses in this first meet and test the waters for what the remainder of the season might look like.

Sophomore undeclared major Hillary Neal said the team's second race at the Crimson Classic was an improvement from the first. "As a team, we really came together and worked hard as a group to all be up at the front running together, which was really exciting to be able to do," she said. Neal was named OVC Freshman of the Year last year.

Just before the conference championship, the teams built their confidence at the Furman Invitational where the women placed first and the men placed second. As consistent with races throughout the season, Neal and Seccafien led the women while Bean set the pace for the men.

The Bulldogs faced their first SoCon Championship race in Spartanburg, SC with high hopes for success, especially on the women's side. Though picked to finish sixth in pre-conference polls, both teams were confident that a higher finish was in view. After a solid race by the top Bulldog runners, the men finished fourth overall while the women had a dramatic and controversial finish, landing second place overall.

"We came in to make a statement and I think we did that," head coach Rod Tiffin said. "We were just a couple points away from a championship on the girls' side, but that gives us something to look forward to next year."

Neal and Seccafien led the Bulldogs, both placing in the top ten. Both were named First Team All-Conference and Seccafien was named SoCon Freshman of the Year. Bean placed sixth overall and was named to the First Team All-Conference for the men.

The team finished the season at NCAA South Regionals in Maryville, Tenn. The women went into the race ranked 13th and finished 12th, which left them feeling positive about their season and ready for improvement for next year. The men went into the race unranked and came out in the top 15. Senior Spanish education major Katie Almand said, "We really pulled together and ran as a team like this team has never done before."

The components of the coaching staff were brand new to the team this year and required flexibility from all the athletes. Runners had to learn how to adjust to Tiffin's coaching style while learning to work under new assistant coach and former Bulldog runner Lauren Blankenship, who was titled an All-American in

"We really came together and worked hard as a group to all be up at the front running together."





her college running career. Along with these two adjustments, assistant coach Chad James spent the first half of the season in Beijing, China working with the United States Paralympics Track and Cross Country team. He returned mid-season to resume his role as Bulldog assistant coach.

On top of the coaching adjustments, runners returned from summer break to a torn up track due to the football field improvements and field house construction. While cross country requires distance training, many of the athletes use the track as a place for working on running techniques. They had to relocate to a local high school for the season.

Despite the dramatic changes in the program, Almand said running this year was the best out of her four at Samford. "Individually and as a team we were more successful this year than we have been in the past," Almand said. "We really turned some heads in Southern Conference by coming in with a bang and placing second. Our team also had more heart and fire than ever before."

Story: Val Kikkert & Matt Westberry

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Ina Ables





Photograph: Evan Chandler









# A Season of Significance

## Men's Basketball



“Entering the conference, the Bulldogs were a mystery to SoCon opponents, just as the opponents were mysteries to the Bulldogs.”

The 2008-09 season was a time of new beginnings for the basketball team. Along with the transition to the Southern Conference, the team lost two seniors, who were leading scorers in the 2007-08 campaign. Entering the conference, the Bulldogs were a mystery to SoCon opponents, just as the opponents were mysteries to the Bulldogs. “This year was really about finding out for ourselves exactly where we stood in a new league,” 12-year head coach Jimmy Tillette said.

Despite the newness of the conference, the team finished with a .450 winning percentage and third in the North Division. The Bulldogs’ season ended in the semi-finals against SoCon Tournament Champion UT-Chattanooga. “Chattanooga had six seniors who saw lots of time on the court, and in the end their desire proved to be the difference,” Tillette said. With the final score of 81-70, the Bulldogs proved they could still hold their own in a conference where they were said to be the underdogs.

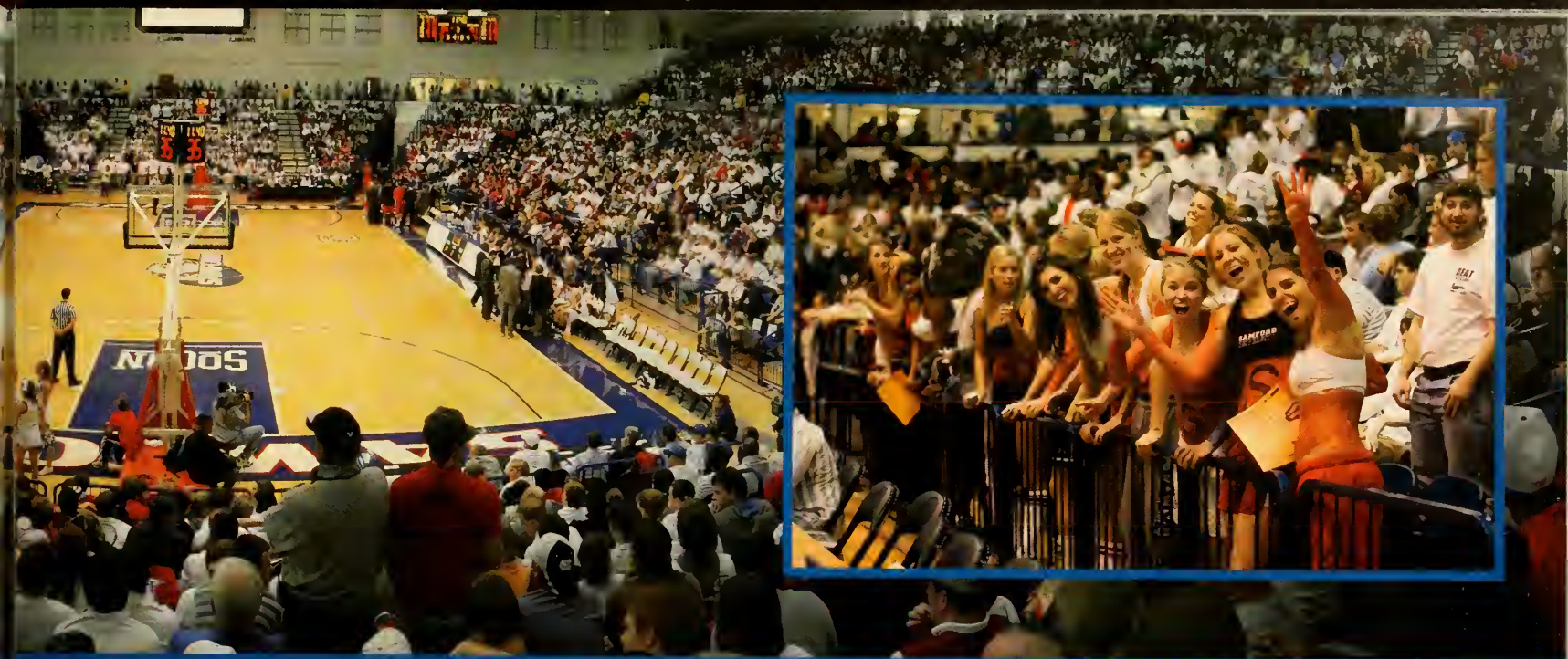
Stephen Curry and Davidson’s visit to Samford helped to draw a record crowd of 5,116 fans in Corts Arena. Some students spent the night outside of Pete Hanna Center to ensure first admittance into the arena for the big game. The sports department made and sold “White Out” shirts to the student body to promote

“Whiting Out Davidson.” Not only was the crowd more hyped up than ever before, but the team produced a quality game that came down to the final seconds before the winner was decided. “Seeing our Bulldogs play up against a very well-known team and give them a run for their money was well worth the time I spent waiting to get in the arena, and I am very proud of them,” junior classics major Katherine Brock said.

The family connections within the team were also significant this season. Freshman business management major Jeffrey Merritt is the third legacy from the Merritt family to wear the Samford jersey. Former Samford All-American honorable mention J. Robert Merritt set a standard for the family and was followed by Joe Ross, who graduated in 2008. Tillette said, “Joe Ross was one of the toughest players to ever put on a Samford uniform.” Also paving the way for a younger sibling was junior public administration major Bryan Friday. Friday was the leading scorer this season and was one of five SoCon players named to the SoCon All-Tournament Team. Bryan’s younger brother, Matthew, entered this season as a redshirt freshman and saw his own time on the court as well.

The Bulldogs ended the season with a 16-16 (9-11 SoCon) record but came out with a better understanding of the SoCon and what is to come in the next year. With only one graduating senior, Tillette said he is looking to the younger players to step into leadership roles next year.





Story: Val Kikkert & Matt Westberry  
 Layout : Megan Marr  
 Photographs: Evan Chandlee & Stephen Nelson





# Joining the *Ranks*

## Women's Basketball

**T**he women's basketball team was new to the SoCon this season, but the Bulldogs proved themselves anything but amateurs. Fourth in conference preseason polls, the team climbed to a second place regular season finish behind Chattanooga and logged one of the best seasons in program history.

In a season head coach Mike Morris called "very successful with a disappointing ending," the Bulldogs finished 22-7 with the second most wins and least number of losses in Samford women's basketball history. The conference record, 16-4, was also a program best.

"We came out strong for our first year in the SoCon," sophomore guard and journalism and mass communication major Emily London said. "We let teams know we'll be in it to win it and won't expect anything less."

Redshirt junior guard and sociology major Monica Maxwell agreed. "We shocked a lot of teams," she said.

The Bulldogs started the season with a five-game win streak, including a road win against Alabama. Beating the Crimson Tide 61-55 in overtime at Tuscaloosa was a feat Samford had never done. "It was a big win for us to beat an SEC team on their floor," Morris said.

"They were a close group, and it showed in our success."

The team then suffered two close defeats. The first was against Evansville in the Samford-UAB Thanksgiving Classic. After trailing double digits in the second half, the Bulldogs fought to take the game into two overtimes. Scoreless in the second overtime, the women lost the thriller 58-54.

The second was the team's conference opener at Chattanooga. The Bulldogs led 54-49 with less than four minutes. However, Chattanooga responded with a series of lay-ups, with the winning shot at 52 seconds left. The Bulldogs came up one point short, 55-54.

Morris said it was tough to lose the first conference game, but his team's confidence was not shaken long. The Bulldogs bounced back with their first conference win at Wofford, 67-62, and a hard fought game at No. 9 Baylor.

The Baylor game was definitely a highlight, London said. "We showed we could contend with them," she said, "and we never backed down." After a 23-point deficit in the second half, the Bulldogs cut the lead to five with three minutes left. The Bulldogs lost the contest 51-63.

The team then went on an 11-game conference win streak, including big wins against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Western Carolina.

London hit a last-second three-pointer to defeat UNC-G 44-41. Both Morris and Maxwell count the game as a season highlight. "It showed the more we play together, we'll come out on top," Maxwell said.

The score against WCU wasn't near as close as the UNC-G game. The Bulldogs won the road game 69-41, having scored 42 points in the second half. Western was ranked second in preseason polls.







The Bulldogs' win streak was halted by UNC-G when the Spartans won 49-37 in Greensboro. After leading 24-22 at halftime, the Bulldogs were outscored in the second half 27-13.

Two more disappointing conference losses came after a four-game conference win streak. The first was Western Carolina's retaliation. The team fought back from a 10-point deficit at halftime and came within one point of the Catamounts. The Bulldogs dropped the game 55-53.

The final regular season game, senior night against Chattanooga, was the heartbreaker for the team. Playing for first in the SoCon, the Bulldogs suffered a 48-72 defeat as the Mocs claimed their 10th consecutive regular season title. Maxwell said the game was "horrible," and that the team had the potential to win the league but let it slip away.

Morris said his team lost confidence after the back-to-back losses. London agreed. "Our confidence level was shot," she said. "We went from high to low in a short amount of time."

To overcome what Maxwell called a "losing slump," the team continued to work hard. Maxwell said the consistent effort showed in the first round of the SoCon tournament. The Bulldogs defeated UNC-G 58-49 and advanced to the semifinals against Western Carolina. WCU ended the Bulldogs' season with a 66-53 defeat and captured both the tournament championship and an automatic bid

to the NCAA tournament.

London said losing to WCU was tough, but the Bulldogs had a good tournament showing for their first year.

"We should've won," Maxwell said. "There was no excuse not to. We had more fire the second game. It just didn't go the way we wanted."

Despite the early ending, the season was a Bulldog best. Morris attributed the team's success to its chemistry. "Team chemistry was definitely one of our strengths," he said. "They were unselfish on the court. They were a close group, and it showed in our success."

Maxwell also said the team chemistry contributed to the play on the court. "This was the first year we were really close on and off the court," she said. "Even if we lost, we could walk off the court and be the best of friends."

While it was a team effort, some earned individual accolades. Morris was named the SoCon Coach of the Year. "It's a great award," Maxwell said. "No one thought he'd bring us in and do well, but we did a great job adjusting."

London finished the season with a number of honors. The February SoCon Athlete of the Month and two-time SoCon Player of the Week led the conference in free-throw percentage at 90.2 percent and was second in three-point percentage at 46.4 percent. She averaged 13.8 points per game. She was selected

for the Preseason All-Conference Team and was also named Honorable Mention National Player of the Month by the Women's Basketball Coaches' Association.

Senior forward and sports medicine major Chika Okoli was named to the second-team All-Tournament team. She averaged 15.5 points and 5.5 rebounds per game during the tournament. She also made 63.6 percent of her shots from the floor.

Morris said the entire team did a great job "setting the tone" as SoCon competitors, regardless of the season's outcome. The Bulldogs showed the SoCon they were contenders and set high expectations for next season.

As for next season, "We'll be the team to beat," Maxwell said.

Story: Lauren Sharpe

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Leah Jane Henderson





# Better than the Record

## Baseball

It was a learning year for Bulldog baseball. Starting with a three-a-week weightlifting and conditioning schedule and a five-a-week practice schedule in the fall, the team was about to enter a new league of baseball and was determined to receive recognition for its talent. The Southern Conference, a top-10 college baseball league in America, proved to be no simple task to undertake.

Catcher and freshman exercise science major Brad Moss said, "We got off to a hot start, hit a little rough patch, but we came back."

With upsets against the University of Alabama, Auburn University and Western Carolina, Samford baseball proved to be a team that can pull through.

The Alabama Crimson Tide brought a tough game, going into extra innings with a final score of 14-13, in Samford's favor. With a 7-7 tied score, the Western Carolina game also went into extra innings resulting in an 8-7 Samford win.

Freshman pitcher and undeclared major Kyle Putkonen pitched seven innings against Auburn, giving up only two hits and striking out a career-high eight batters. Freshman pitcher and sports medicine major Josh Martin followed with two more no-hit innings to earn the 8-2 win.

Ending the season with an overall record of 17-35, 9-21 SoCon, the quality of wins, not quantity, is what the team said really matters. The team did not make it to the SoCon Tournament, but players said there were definitely lessons learned throughout each practice and game.

"Though the wins and losses haven't showed it, the team had a lot of talent and an overall good season," senior history major and pitcher Kyle Nichols said. Nichols was awarded the title of

Mr. Bulldog for his team and campus leadership at the inaugural Samspys Award Show.

SoCon Player of the Week, junior international relations major and infielder Wayne Miller had a strong season for the Bulldogs. He led the team with a .339 batting average, three home runs, 28 RBI and 24 stolen bases out of 26 attempts. Also, infielder and sophomore business major Stephen Ballard had an outstanding year with a .350 batting average, two home runs and 21 RBI. Leading the team with 10 home runs, David Schulze, outfield player and junior accounting major, had a .335 batting average and 57 RBI.

Bulldogbaseball ended the season with a 16-3 loss to Georgia Southern in regular seasons play, but the coaching staff said they are looking forward to building on the talented and strong team from this season.

In looking toward next season, head coach Casey Dunn said, "We will return a lot of key players and some that were injured this season. The new signees will help out a lot. Our freshmen this year had a really strong season so we look forward to another next year."

"We got off to a hot start, hit a little rough patch, but we came back."

Story: Maggie Bridges

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Ina Ables









# Refusing to **Strike** Out

Softball

**T**he theme of the 2009 softball season was “overcoming obstacles and working with what we had,” redshirt junior pitcher and sports medicine major Stephanie Royall said.

The Bulldogs fought hard to stay in the game this season despite an injury-plagued roster and reoccurring lineup changes. Even though its record of 21-30 wasn’t as good as hoped for, the team proved successful in its own right, for it learned an invaluable lesson in perseverance and won the battle with adversity.

“I was pleased with how we finished the season,” head coach Beanie Ketcham said. “We overcame many hardships and obstacles and really pulled things together the last couple of weeks of the season to play good softball at the right time. We learned invaluable life lessons along the way that transcend what you learn on the playing field. Those are the things that will be remembered about this season.”

Ketcham added that her team never quit fighting, and for that she was proud.

Sophomore biology major and outfielder Aaren Fisher knew that her team wasn’t fighting these obstacles alone. “The Lord was definitely watching over us,” she said. “He gave us enough able bodies to keep playing and to persevere through the grievances.”

And persevere they did. Through a season-ending elbow injury, five broken hands, a severe quad injury, the removal of a blood cyst, several shoulder issues and a family tragedy, the Bulldogs reached the semifinal game of the SoCon Tournament. They were ousted by Georgia Southern in a 4-3 heartbreaker.

“We deserved to win it,” Fisher said. “We went into extra innings, but we just couldn’t push through.”

“[The loss] was a big time bummer,” Royall said. “But our play in the tournament was absolutely huge. We played well. It just didn’t happen.”

Before meeting Georgia Southern, the Bulldogs upset No. 2 seed College of Charleston, 6-1, and No. 3 seed Appalachian State, 3-1, in the first

two rounds of the tournament.

“We came in to the tournament, and everyone expected us to lose and get pushed aside,” Fisher said. “We played our game to the best of our ability and showed them we were on the same page.”

Royall said the team’s early tournament victories resulted in a “complete transformation” of the attitude toward them in the SoCon.

“We gained a lot of respect and showed the other teams not to take us for granted.”

“No one expected much from us or wanted us to do well,” she said. “Then the teams we beat were in the stands cheering for us against Chattanooga. We gained a lot of respect and showed the other teams not to take us for granted.”

The Bulldogs fell to Chattanooga in





the team selflessness. "Putting others before ourselves became a priority," she said.

Some players were also recognized for individual achievements. Senior exercise science major Jessica Owens was named the first SoCon Player of the Week of the season and finished with the highest batting average in the conference. She was also named to the All-Tournament Team. Royall also claimed a Player of the Week title, being named the Pitcher of the Week for two consecutive weeks.

Senior biology major Kylie Harmon was honored for her academic achievements by being named to the 2008-09 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District First Team while her younger sister, freshman biology major Robyn, was named to the All-SoCon Team. Robyn and freshman business major Amy Gonzalez were named to the SoCon All-Freshman Team.

With the injury-ridden season behind them and a good showing for their first SoCon Tournament, the Bulldogs said they are excited about the future. Ketcham said her team can "compete well in this league," and they have the ability to take it all.

"We've got talent, heart and a great group of girls," Fisher said. "The SoCon better watch out because Samford is going to take it by storm."

the third round of the tournament, 3-2, with a walk-off home run in the seventh inning.

"We fell short of our goal of winning the tournament, so that was a disappointment and leaves a sour taste in our mouths, but hopefully it will fan the flame of desire for next year," Ketcham said.

In these disappointing losses and also exciting victories, the strength of the team this year was undoubtedly its chemistry.

"It was truly a joint effort," Royall said. "Everyone pulled their weight and stepped up when we needed to pull through."

"Everyone in their own right was a contributor, even those off the field," Fisher said. "Everyone had a role, and we couldn't win without them."

Fisher added that this unity taught

Story: Lauren Sharpe.

Layout: Megan Marr.

Photographs: Cooper Pindon.





# Ready to Rally

## Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team had a lot riding on their shoulders as they entered the 2009 season. Their 2008 season was successful as they took the conference championship in the Ohio Valley Conference. However, the team would not return as defending champions but rather enter as the new team in the Southern Conference, which meant tougher competition.

Sophomore marketing major Carl Abalos said, "We definitely left a mark for our first year and made a name for ourselves."

Although the team did not win the championship, the team learned the ropes of the SoCon. They completed the season 6-16-1 overall and 3-6-1 in conference play and look forward to improving next season.

"I believe we will definitely have a better team next year," Abalos said. "We have new recruits coming in, and I believe that the new blood will bode well for our team."

Although they will be welcoming new players, the Bulldogs are also losing two seniors, finance major Richard Walsh and public administration major Brian Dushock.

"These guys played a huge role on our team," Abalos said. "They were strong leaders and showed us how to play on this team. They worked really hard, and will continue to be awesome examples for us even after they have graduated."

With a year in the SoCon behind them, the tennis team better understands the level of competition and are prepared to rally in 2010.

"We have definitely gotten our feet wet in the SoCon and are ready to take on the challenges that the tougher competition presents," Abalos said.

Story: Tara White  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photos: Ray Silveira







# Rallying with *Change*

## Women's Tennis

**T**he women's tennis team entered the 2009 season with high standards and great expectations. In 2008, the Bulldogs were the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament Champions, and in both 2007 and 2008, the team finished regular season champions. The bar was set high for the Bulldogs as they began the season in a new conference.

"Moving into the SoCon was really no different than the OVC with the exception of the top two or three teams," head coach David Vest said. "The top teams in the SoCon are stronger than the top teams in the

OVC. After the top few spots, there is really not a huge difference between the two conferences."

The Bulldogs certainly held their own in the SoCon Tournament, defeating Wofford College in the first round.

"We were later beaten in the quarterfinals of the tournament by College of Charleston," Vest said. "College of Charleston ended up winning the SoCon tournament and earning an automatic NCAA tournament berth."

Before they reached the tournament, however, the Bulldogs had to overcome several challenges. "The

most challenging aspect of the season was playing with only five girls," Vest said. "We started the fall season with nine girls, but we were down to five healthy girls when the conference season started."

Despite this challenge, the Bulldogs finished sixth in regular season conference play with an 8-13 record overall and a 4-6 record in the SoCon.

One of the most memorable matches of the season was against cross-city rival University of Alabama at Birmingham. "Beating UAB with only five healthy girls was exciting," Vest said.

Freshman exercise science major Jessica Diamond agreed. "Playing UAB on the indoor courts was definitely my favorite match of this season," she said. "The match was the first win of my college tennis career."

With only five players for the majority of the season, the Bulldogs knew the importance of working hard for their teammates.

"I loved playing on the team," Diamond said. "In high school, tennis was an individual sport. I only had to focus on doing well individually, not to benefit a team. In college, it is a team sport, and every match affects the team."

Though a team effort, three players finished the season with added honors. Sophomore business major Taylor Morgan was named to the SoCon First Team, while Diamond and sophomore business major Andrie Meiring were named to the Second Team.

While the Bulldogs' season didn't quite reach the standards set by the previous two, the team was successful in setting a foundation for competing in the SoCon. With its talent, team dynamic and a year in the SoCon, the team had the materials needed to build for future seasons.



Story: Jennifer Taylor

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Alex Cloke









# Driving Ahead

## Men's Golf

**T**he men's golf team has learned a lesson that has stuck with them over the years: perseverance. Through rough seasons and changes in conferences, these men have found out what it truly means to work together as a team and to push forward. This lesson was displayed throughout the 2009 season. Although it was not successful according to the records, the Bulldog stuck together as a team and played the best they could at each tournament.

Head coach Woodie Eubanks said that he was proud of his players. "It was a tough season for us, but I know that my players worked hard," he said.

"This season felt more like a roller coaster than anything else," sophomore international relations major Martin Bunt said. "We all played well in some tournaments, then not so great in others. The competition was completely different, and this season was more of a warm-up for us now that we are in the SoCon."

The sophomore had a good season overall, with finishes in the top 10 and top 25 brackets.

"I definitely have room to improve, and so does the team," he said. "However, I know we are up for the challenge."

Eubanks said most of the obstacles were due to the increased level of competition in the Southern Conference. "The SoCon challenged us with better tournaments and higher quality players," he said. "The competition definitely stiffened for us."

He also mentioned three outstanding seniors as key contributors. He said management majors Ian Cutting and Bobby Baird and accounting major Andrew Villarreal played key roles in keeping the focus of the team.

"They all showed great leadership and played really well," Bunt

said. "I have always looked up to these guys, and the team will be completely different without them. (Andrew) was a huge role model for me." Villarreal was the third best player in Samford history.

Even though the team will lose these three seniors, the Bulldogs will gain four new members in next year's freshman class. "These new recruits show a lot of promise," Bunt said. "I think that they all are really good players and will definitely help establish us as a contending team within the Southern Conference." The incoming freshmen will prove advantageous for a fresh beginning, seeing as all the competition is new for them.

**"This season felt more like a roller coaster than anything else."**

Now with a season under their belt, the men's golf team said they are ready for the hurdles the SoCon will throw their way next year. The team is more familiar with the competition and is ready

to utilize new players and begin with a new start. Eubanks said he sees the new obstacles as a chance for growth and improvement.

"I believe that we can only learn from the tougher conference," he said.

The Bulldogs will remember the downfalls they have faced in the past and persevere onto a brighter future. "We can only get better and learn to compete on a higher level," Coach Eubanks said.

Story: Tara White  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Alex Cloke









# Better than the Record

Women's Golf

The women's golf team finished the season eighth in the SoCon, but its placement says nothing of the season's efforts. Although the Bulldogs didn't finish near the top, senior sports medicine major Kellie O'Connell said it was the "best season overall" since being at Samford.

"We didn't finish at the top like we have in the past," she said. "But the SoCon is a stronger conference."

But what was even stronger than the SoCon was the chemistry of the team, O'Connell said, and that is what made the season memorable.

Junior marketing major Heather Arnold also felt the closeness of the girls was the season's strength. "The season went really well," she said. "We had a new freshman come in, and we all just clicked as a team and came together."

The instant chemistry showed in the team's performance, as they began the spring season with a bang. After leading by 15 strokes on the first day of the season's first tournament, the Bulldogs won the Birmingham Southern Ann Rhoads Invitational by an overwhelming 40 strokes. The win margin was the biggest the program has ever seen.

"It was so surreal," said Arnold, who claimed the individual tournament title after finishing the first day of competition with an eighth-place score.

The Bulldogs took one-two-three in individual tournament play, with junior economics major Katelyn Stanier finishing just one stroke behind Arnold.

Junior journalism and mass communication major Sara Hunt finished third.

With such an impressive win, the Bulldogs hoped to be on their way to receiving

"We had a new freshman come in, and we all just clicked as a team and came together."



an automatic bid to the NCAA regional. However, the team fell short of its goal in a heartbreaking loss to Gardner-Webb University in the Larry Nelson Invitational hosted by Kennesaw State. The Bulldogs left the tournament with second place, having finished only two strokes behind GWU and possibly two strokes from the NCAA tournament bid.

Another "upsetting" performance was the conference tournament, Arnold said. The Bulldogs were in third place after the first day of play and sixth place after the second day. In the third and final day of competition, the team fell to eighth place.


"We didn't play as well in the conference, but not every day is going to be great," Arnold said. "We finished with dignity and did our best. We held our heads high, and hopefully people will see that. All we can do is think about the positives of the season, and if the SoCon can see that attitude, we can be proud."

Even though their conference finish was less than anticipated, O'Connell said it was fun being the underdog. "We shocked a lot of teams," she said. "They were scared. They weren't expecting much from us."

Next year, she said, the Bulldogs will continue to surprise the SoCon. "We can play at their level," O'Connell said. "We were just unfamiliar with the teams, and that was a disadvantage. We have a good chance to win the conference in the future."

"I'm excited to see how things work out," Arnold said. "I definitely see us doing well. We're going to have some big tournaments next year to prepare us, and the pressure situations will make us grind and work hard so that we can be ready come time for conference."





161 Jordan Hardy	10	10	150	115 Jay Holbrook
161 Kelley Burgess	86	89	175	Carrie M'Clennaghan
169 Ashley Lovell	84	83	167	Kristen Cometto
171 Gaukhar Anandasson	85	84	169	Jessica Parris
San Keller	80	85	165	Amanda Hamlett
662 Team Total	327	330	657	Team Total

173 Bill Mattingly	76	153
175 Lauren Showers	157	
175 Michele Nash	158	
182 Molly Fields		
191 Clare Co		
705 Nicole S		
Team		

Samford University

Woody Eubanks

Sara Hunt

Katelyn Stainer

Heather Arnold

Maria Troche

Sarah Butts

Team Total

1<sup>st</sup> IND. 2<sup>nd</sup> IND.

76	76	152
77	71	148
79	68	147
79	77	156
86	78	164
311	292	603





# Running *Beyond* Expectations

## Track & Field



**“We have the talent base and the drive to win a SoCon Championship.”**

The track and field team entered a new conference with a new head coach, and both new elements proved to be a good move for the Bulldogs. Under the realm of new head coach Rod Tiffin, the men and women finished fourth and sixth in the SoCon, respectively, and gained the respect of their conference competition.

Senior distance runner and Spanish major Katie Almand said this year was better than previous years because of Tiffin's leadership.

“He is absolutely amazing,” she said. “He took the team in a totally new direction, and we experienced such a change in our support system. He was a lot more passionate about the sport and confident in us.”

Along with the addition of a new head coach, competing in a new conference was exciting, Almand said. “We definitely made our mark,” she said. “They were already gunning for us after finishing second in cross country, but we did really well and showed them to watch out for next year.”

“The SoCon definitely knows that we are in the conference,” Tiffin said. “I think we showed that we are an up-and-coming team that will do well in the future.”

Four Bulldogs led the way in the team's first SoCon season by claiming conference championships. Sophomore nursing major





Hillary Neal took the 3,000-meter women's steeplechase title after having run it for the first time only two weeks prior to the championship. Sophomore biology major Blaise Carie took the same event for the men.

Junior finance major Patrick Wells claimed not only the men's pole vault title with a jump of 16 feet 6.75 inches but also a school record. He tied the record he broke earlier in the season at the War Eagle Invitational at Auburn.

Freshman international relations major Andrea Seccafien finished first in the 5000-meter run and earned All-Freshman honors for her performance. Joining her in this honor were undeclared major Donald Cooper, sports medicine major Christi Myers, psychology major Cavan Corcoran, nutrition and dietetics major Deanna Zidar, nursing major Christian McGuire and political science major Thomas Oliver.

Tiffin said he was particularly proud of these freshmen. "They came in this year with something to prove and were able to lift up their game and do some big things for us this season," he said.

Other milestones in the season included regional qualifiers and school record breakers. With his new school record, Wells qualified for the

NCAA Mideast Regional where he broke that record for the highest jump in personal and Samford history. Neal joined him as a qualifier in the 800-meter run, steeplechase and 1,500-meter run, in which she, too, broke the school record. Both athletes, along with Carie, claimed All-SoCon honors.

In such a successful season, the Bulldogs faced only one major obstacle and that was the lack of facilities, Tiffin said. The team lost their track to the construction of the football field house and was forced to share with neighboring high schools. However, Tiffin said he does not see this being an issue for long.

"I feel that with the backing of administration this is something that will be rectified in the near future," he said. "We will continue to get better with the help of our administration and I feel that they are on our side and are a great support for the program."

Success in the SoCon also appears to be on the Bulldogs' side. Almand said that with the direction of Tiffin, the team will "definitely get better as



a whole."

"We have a young, strong, passionate team," she said.

"We will win a SoCon championship in the near future," Tiffin said. "We have the talent base and the drive to do it."

Story: Lauren Sharpe

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Ina Ables





Photograph by [unreadable]







# The Best of the Bulldogs

## Baseball

17-35, 9-21 SoCon

Wayne Miller

Student-Athlete of the Week

## Men's Basketball

16-16, 9-11 SoCon

Bryan Friday

All-Tournament First Team

## Women's Basketball

22-7, 16-4 SoCon

Regular Season Runner-Up

NCAA Public Recognition Award

Mike Morris

Coach of the Year

Jennifer Elkins

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Savannah Hill

All-Conference Team

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Emily London

Athlete of the Month

Women's Basketball Coaches Association Honorable Mention National

Player of the Month

All-Conference Team

Two-time Player of the Week

Preseason All-Conference Team

Chika Okoli

All-Tournament Second Team

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Karmen Smith

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Megan Wilderotter

Student-Athlete of the Week

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

## Cross Country

Women—SoCon Runner-Up; 12th at NCAA Regional

Men—4th in SoCon; 15th at NCAA Regional

Named All-Academic by the United States

Track & Field & Cross Country Coaches Association

NCAA Public Recognition Award

Katie Almand

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Cameron Bean

Runner of the Week

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Blaise Carie

Scott Cope

Jillian Klassen

Hillary Neal

Patrick Ollinger

Lauren Pilcher

Michael Schwartz

## Men's Golf

10th at SoCon Championships

## Women's Golf

8th at SoCon Championships

NCAA Public Recognition Award

Katelyn Stanier

All-Conference Team

Player of the Week

## Men's Tennis

6-16-1, 3-6-1 SoCon

Carson Kadi

All-Freshman Team

Richard Walsh

Player of the Week

## Women's Tennis

8-13, 4-6 SoCon

Jessica Diamond

All-Conference Second Team

Andrie Meiring

All-Conference Second Team

Taylor Morgan

All-Conference First Team

## Softball

21-30, 12-16 SoCon

Amy Gonzalez

All-Freshman Team

Kylie Harmon

ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District First Team

Robyn Harmon

All-Conference Second Team

All-Freshman Team

Jessica Owens

Player of the Week

Stephanie Royall

Two-time Pitcher of the Week







## Football

6-5, 4-4 SoCon

Andy Davis

All-Conference Second Team Defense

Chris Evans

All-Conference First Team Offense

Offensive Player of the Week

Richie Fordham

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Ryan Fordham

ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District

Second Team

Patrick Hatcher

Defensive Player of the Week

Riley Hawkins

All-Freshman Team Offense

Bob Hooper

Special Teams Player of the Week

Ty Levie

ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District

Second Team

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Bryce Smith

All-Conference Second Team Defense

Dustin Taliaferro

Freshman of the Year

Freshman of the Week

Mitchell Waters

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Jon Weber

All-Conference Second Team Offense

## Soccer

9-9-3, 8-1-2 SoCon

NCAA Public Recognition Award

Mary Shelton Bryant

Jacksonville State Gamecock Classic All-Tournament Team

Candace Clippard

Alabama Sports Association for Health,

P.E., Recreation and Dance's Student-Ath-

lete and Young Professional of the Year

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Amber Cress

All-Tournament Team

Natalie Fleming

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Shannon Healy

Jacksonville State Gamecock Classic

All-Tournament Team

Theresa Henry

All-Freshman Team

Valerie Kikkert

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Paige Lanter

All-Tournament Team

Jacksonville State Gamecock Classic

All-Tournament Team

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Leah Leppert

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Colette Nammour

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Marchele Olds

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Kelly Shaffer

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Jenna Sturgill

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Alyssa Whitehead

All-Freshman Team

Sarah Wilkinson

All-Freshman Team

Cayley Winters

Student-Athlete of the Week

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

## Track and Field

Women—6th in SoCon

Men—4th in SoCon

NCAA Public Recognition Award

Katie Almand

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Mary Barron

Two-time Field Athlete of the Week

Kyle Brown

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Blaise Carie

Track Athlete of the Week

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Scott Cope

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Cavan Corcoran

Track Athlete of the Week

Chris Davis

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Zac Epperson

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Hillary Neal

Athlete of the Month

Track Athlete of the Week

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Patrick Ollinger

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Brian Post

Winter Academic All-Conference Team

Patrick Wells

Three-time Field Athlete of the Week

## Volleyball

North Division Regular Season Champions

28-5, 16-2 SoCon

Ashley Adams

American Volleyball Coaches Association

South All-Region

AVCA Honorable Mention All-American

Player of the Month

SoCon Player of the Year

Three-time Player of the Week

Hillary Fountain

Two-time Player of the Week

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Rachel Gadberry

All-Freshman Team

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Jackie Jaszcz

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Katie Luckman

Fall Academic All-Conference Team

Kirstein Sosnowski

All-Conference Second Team

## Sampsys Award Winners

Athletes For Athletes Female: Megan Wilderotter

Athletes For Athletes Male: Bryan Friday

Athletes For Athletes Team: Women's Tennis

Female Academic Team of the Year: Women's Golf

Male Academic Team of the Year: Men's Golf

Female Rookie of the Year: Taylor Morgan & Hillary Neal

Male Rookie of the Year: Dustin Taliaferro

Comeback Athlete of the Year: Megan Wilderotter

Breakthrough Athlete of the Year: Patrick Wells

Supporting Player of the Year: Courtney Gay

Best Blooper: Curt Smith

Best Championship Performance: Hank Grant

Best Finish: Soccer

Best Upset: Men's Basketball

Play of the Year: Jonathan Lowery

Most Outstanding Team: Volleyball

Support Staff of the Year: James Carlson

Assistant Coach of the Year: Katherine Katz

Coach of the Year: David Vest

Best Female Athlete: Ashley Adams

Best Male Athlete: Chris Evans

Miss Bulldog: Valerie Kikkert

Mr. Bulldog: Kyle Nichols

Photographs: Leah Jane Henderson, Stephen Nelson, and Evan Chandlee



# Releasing the Competitive *Energy*

## Intramurals

**A**lthough many students participate in sports during their high school years, most find it difficult to continue their athletic careers on a collegiate level. With the time commitment, high level of talent and skill and demanding academics, many students cannot compete in athletics like they did in high school. However, Campus Recreation offers a solution for students still itching for athletic competition: intramural sports. Anyone can play intramurals, and teams consist of both student-athletes and those just looking to have fun.



The 2008-2009 school year was an exciting one for intramurals. A total of 3,520 students participated this year, with 1,730 students participating during the fall season, and 1,790 students in the spring. The new game room in Seibert Hall added to the participation increase. It allowed the addition of several new intramural sports.

"The new game room allowed for the addition of table tennis, billiards, and Texas hold 'em. Racquetball was another sport added in the spring (as well)," coordinator of Campus Recreation Peter Becker said.

While all intramural sports were popular, flag football was by far the most popular. "We had 71 teams participate in flag football this year," Becker said.

This popular sport created some exciting moments at intramural games. "In the Women's A Flag Football Championship, Old Dogs and Blackout went to five overtimes before Blackout was crowned the Women's A Champion," Becker said.

Freshman journalism and mass communication major Sara Tarpley was on the championship Blackout Team. "We lost to

Old Dogs earlier in the season, so when we found out we were playing them in the championship game, we really saw it as a chance to prove ourselves," she said. "When we won, we were beyond excited! For me it was especially exciting to win such a big intramural like flag football during my first semester at Samford."

Haley Davis, freshman interior design major, also enjoyed participating in intramurals during her first year at Samford. "I played flag football, soccer, basketball and dodgeball," Davis said. "My favorite sport was flag football. One time, a girl on the opposing team was trying to grab one of our girl's flags. As she was going for the flag, she accidentally ripped her shorts! It was hilarious."

Playing on an intramural team can also serve as an outlet to meet new people. "Playing intramural volleyball was especially cool for me because I was on a team with all seniors," freshman undeclared major Catherine Butler said.

Butler played on the Chi Omega's A division volleyball team. "I was nervous, but it helped me to establish friendships with older girls," she said. "The time we spent together made it feel like we had known each other forever."

Chi Omega had a great season and went on to win the Women's A Division. "Winning the championship was one of the most exciting moments of my freshman year," Butler said.

Intramural competition can be fierce at times, but intramurals are more about having fun than anything else. "I played on every intramural team except for soccer. It is very intense," freshman athletic training major Mary Yarbrow said. "I played in both the A league and the B league. The A league is definitely more competitive, and B league, although it has its intense moments, is more about having fun. My favorite intramural was dodgeball. We didn't have the most talented team, but we had a great group which made it fun for me."

**"Winning the championship was one of the most exciting moments of my freshman year."**

Whether students were looking for fierce competition or just a way to have fun and meet new people, intramurals had something to offer the entire Samford community.

Story: Jennifer Taylor

Layout : Megan Marr

Photographs: Leah Jane Henderson,  
Julian Hollar & Dubose Ratchford











A background photograph of several students, mostly wearing red shirts, standing in front of a brick building. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, orange-toned overlay.

# Organizations

**A**s part of an organization, students are revealing who they are and what they are passionate about. Without the various organizations on campus, it would be difficult for students to find the common bond among them, and the opportunity to share these passions would be missed.

We must remember that each organization has its own role on campus. Mission statements, goals and yearly planned events are usually in the script of each group. However, at the end of the year, most Samford students would say that the work done and goals accomplished cannot be attributed to purely their own skills and abilities.

“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow... for we are God’s co-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building” (1 Corin. 3:7, 9). The growth of each organization on campus is recognized as the Lord’s work, but in being part of a specific group with specific goals and passions, students have the *opportunity* to be co-workers in the effort.



# Beatle Mania

Samford Band shows spirit in performing



**T**hey were planning the invasion for months, making sure that all of the maneuvers were executed perfectly. As they stormed the football field, the fans stopped and looked up from their programs. The British arrived. It was Beatle mania at Samford University.

This year's halftime show brought the sights and sounds of the 1960s back to the field, with a show featuring the music of the Beatles. The show was filled with classic hits such as "Hey Jude" and "Eleanor Rigby."

In order to bring back the 60s, the band purchased new flags and color guard uniforms. Junior education major, Spanish minor and Color Guard captain Zandra Warren designed new uniforms. "We decided to go with the psychedelic sixties," Warren said. "We wanted lots of color with a traditional sixties cut. We added a little glitz with sequin head and wrist bands."

During halftime and throughout each football game, the band and color guard made sure that fans were entertained. "We wanted to keep on entertaining the crowd," Director of Bands Jim Smisek said. "We didn't want to play music that would put them to sleep. We thought that it would be something entertaining that people would actually sit in their seats and watch."

Whether the Bulldogs were winning or losing, the band made sure that fans had the opportunity to show their Samford spirit. "The band provided extra enthusiasm to get our fans on their feet," Warren said. "Each musician and performer had a special talent, and participating in the band was our way of getting involved and supporting Samford."

While members of the larger Samford community often don't see the work that goes into the halftime show, what the band and color guard does at football games is only part of why the program is important.

Every year, almost as soon as the marching uniforms are packed away, Smisek begins gathering ideas for the next year's show, in addition to preparing for concert season. They spend weeks each summer memorizing the drills and preparing music for the halftime show.

Band members said the most important part of the band isn't the uniforms, flags or instruments. Instead, band members said that people make the band what it is — a special part of Samford





“The reason we are all still performing is because we love what we do.”



life. Junior drum major, religion major and Spanish minor Heather Burke said that getting to know students during band camp was the most rewarding part of being in the band. “Camp is all about coming together each year as a group who knows each other and likes to have fun,” Burke said. “We do a lot of work, but the people are really what make the whole thing worth while. There’s just something about helping new freshmen who come in without friends and start school two weeks later with an entire band full of friends.”

The band’s most important commodity was the people who make each performance special. “We have an amazing time growing as a family,” Warren said. “The reason we are all still performing is because we love what we do.”



Story: Haley Aaron

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Evan Chandler & Julian Hollar



# Dancing for the **Bulldogs**

## Dance Team Takes a Bigger Step

The Samford Dance Team came a long way in just a few short years. The 2008-09 school year was the first year they were referred to as the “Bulldog Dancers.” The team consisted of 15 dedicated and talented young women with the purpose of providing dancing entertainment during football and basketball pre-games and halftimes and a Step Sing performance. In addition to these appearances, the Bulldog Dancers’ other tasks included promoting spirit, excitement and overall school pride for students and fans on campus.

Of the 15 girls, eight of them were freshmen this year. Freshman pre-pharmacy major Kelli Carpenter said, “As a freshman, I had no real expectations of the dance team, but now that I am actually on it, I love it! We have so much fun during practice and at the games...When the fans get excited it makes all the hard practice worth it.”

organize complex choreography and formations,” she said.

On the other hand, Turner attributed this year’s success to the size of the team. “This year the team grew. Having a young team gives us an awesome opportunity to grow closer together, improve our technique and make a name for the Bulldog Dancers across campus in the next few years.”

Turner also commented on the wide variety of experience that each of the dancers possessed. “From hip hop to classical ballet, tap to pom, we had our bases covered,” Turner said. “We wanted to expose the team to several types of dance. We had a ballet barre

“When the fans get excited it makes all the hard practice worth it.”

once a week to improve technique. We warmed-up with hip hop and kickboxing, and we choreographed pieces that included a little bit of everything,

including modern and classical jazz.”

The purpose of this variety was to include different techniques in their performances. “We wanted to make every member of the team step outside of her comfort zone and learn a style that she was not necessarily previously trained in,” Turner said. “Being a student-run organization, it is up to the current members of the team to decide what the future of dance team will be.”

“I am truly excited to see where the years of training, passion for dance, desire to perform and sweet spirit of current team members take the Bulldog Dancers,” Turner said.

For Frazier, this year was her fourth and final year as a dance team member, but she recognized that the dancers have a bright future. “Change is one of the great things about this dance team. Because the captains serve as a coach, mentor, choreographer and friend, each year takes on a different shape.”



Both captains, senior pre-law and English major Courtney Frazier and sophomore music education major Lindsey Turner were excited about the differences that the team experienced this year.

“We had so much talent on the team this year and so much potential to do amazing things,” Frazier said. “It’s so frustrating to not be able to put on a show this year because it would be amazing. My goal for this year was to take every chance to display the talents these amazing girls have, whether it was performing on the sidelines or at halftime of a football game or most importantly Step Sing.”

Frazier explained that have such a big team this year provided its challenges. “Fifteen is a pretty big number when you have to







Story: Grace Stephens  
Layout : Megan Marr  
Photographs: Grace Stephens



# Athletes with a *Mission*

## Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Some student-athletes at Samford seek a more recognizable presence on campus that goes beyond what is seen under the lights through the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC). SAAC is an organization of athlete representatives chosen by their teammates and coaches to be a voice from their respective teams, promote new ideas and help in the organization of community service projects.

“Whether it’s in giving our time or money, we must do what we can to give to those in need.”

SAAC met one Thursday a month during convocation to discuss upcoming events and ways to promote athletics among the student body. This year, SAAC was run by student co-chairs senior baseball player and secondary education major Kyle Nichols and senior soccer player and journalism and mass communication major Val Kikkert, as well as athletics administration leaders Michelle Durban and Grant Lyons.

Among the community service projects that SAAC sponsored this year are the Penny Drop, Angel Tree children sponsorships, “Tie up a Cure” Breast Cancer Research Project and Children’s Hospital volunteer hours. SAAC members participated in and initiated the most community service projects in the organization’s history.

This year’s Penny Drop was held throughout the week of October 9-15, as well as at Family Weekend athletic events. The guys collected the most money for the second consecutive year. This year’s total collection was just short of \$200 and

was donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Birmingham.

In efforts to bridge the gap between student-athletes and the general student body, the committee decided it would be best for Samford Athletics to participate in the campus-wide Angel Tree sponsoring of children held at Christmas time. Athletes and the athletics department donated \$1,060 to purchase gifts for the 10 Angel Tree children who SAAC sponsored.

“I think it is very important for Samford athletes to get involved in community service,” senior soccer player, SAAC community service chair and nursing major Jenna Sturgill said. “SAAC is just another outlet for teams to find opportunities to support the less fortunate.”

SAAC also continued to promote the Athletes for Athletes competition, which encourages athletes to attend other sports’ events.

“I definitely think SAAC has increased attendance at our games,” senior volleyball player and biology major Courtney Gay said. “I go to games a lot more because of Athletes for Athletes points.”

For the first time in Samford history, SAAC hosted the first annual Samspy’s, which was an award night

set up like ESPN’s ESPY awards night. Awards were given out to individual athletes and teams for their athletic performances throughout the year.

Each SAAC representative had his/her own motives in joining SAAC. For one it may have been to voice opinions from his/her team, and for another it may have been to facilitate the overall athletics promotion activities.

“I have an opportunity to make a difference,” redshirt sophomore football player and undeclared major Erik Peterson said. “Some of the football players didn’t like a few of the decisions that were being made on behalf of all of Samford’s athletes. I chose to join SAAC so our opinions would be heard, and I think they have been.”

SAAC is important to student-athletes because it encourages a sense of camaraderie among athletes on campus and seeks to bridge the gap between athletes and the general student body. “SAAC is important because we are the voice of the student-athletes,” Nichols said. “We are the medium between the students and faculty. We promote the support of all student athletes.”





Photos counter clock-wise: SAAC hosted a guest inspirational speaker at this year's All-Athlete Convo. This year was the first annual Samspys Awards Show, modeled after ESPN's Espys Awards. The athletes also had the opportunity to visit Children's Hospital patients and bring them Bulldog spirit.



By: Sarah Gardner & Val Kikkert  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Julian Hollar, Val Kikkert,  
Sherelle Hudson, and Michelle Durban



# Engaging the *Silence*

## Shiloh Worship Gathering

In the fall of 2007, a survey showed the majority of Samford students were involved in various religious activities throughout the week. This survey also showed that the majority of Samford students were incredibly stressed. These findings suggested that with all the spiritual activity taking place, something was wrong, something was missing - stillness, elimination of hurry and a place to gather and be at rest.

In this absence, Shiloh was created. Each Tuesday, Shiloh generated an atmosphere of rest and became a haven for burnt-out, overworked, tired students in need of rejuvenation and silence. There, students were encouraged to refocus their sight on the One who desires for us to have life and have it abundantly.

Imagine: after a particularly intense school day replete with tests, quizzes and heavy material, you walk into a dimly lit building. This space contains beautiful paintings of different stages of Christ's life and carefully crafted images of His followers. You hear the soothing sounds of a piano lightly playing in the background as you wash your hands in cleansing water. Thoughts of your "to-do" list and the paper that's due the following day disappear. You walk down the marble isle and sit amongst fellow students. For the first time that week, you are still. In this stillness, you grasp with intense clarity that this life is only a moment in comparison to the eternity you will have with Christ. Such an astonishing realization sweeps over you and brings a settling peace as the music softens and a voice resonates, "Welcome to Shiloh."

The mindset of constant motion and continuous hurry is why Shiloh became such a vital part of many Samford students' lives and why so many were dedicated to keep Tuesday night free from study groups and other activities.

In Scripture, Shiloh was the gathering place of worship where the Arc of the covenant was held. Translated, Shiloh literally means place of rest. To maintain the appropriate atmosphere, much planning went into every aspect of the service. For many, worship is a service containing singing and a sermon with great emphasis placed on the entertainment aspect of both. Worship is more of a passive observation and less of an action. However, Shiloh provided an opportunity to worship as an outpouring of one's life, as something to approach with intention and as an action that can take place through a variety of different outlets. Through art, poetry, video and song, Shiloh engaged this concept. Finding creative ways to bring the focus to Christ and away from the typical youth group gathering is essential and one of the reasons students found Shiloh so unique.

Shiloh was a time to have our eyes refocused from the cares of this world to the One who humbled himself for us, even to death on a cross. Earthly toil ends and relationship with the Lord was clearly seen and recognized as the only reason to press on through this journey.

Story: Chelsea Rushing

Layout: Tara White & Megan Marr

Photographs: Julian Hollar







## Serving Each Other and the Community

### Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) at Samford is about developing relationships. Juan Ford, the Samford area representative, said that the best part of the 2008-2009 year was the relationships that he cultivated. "Each week afforded the opportunity to fellowship with young men and women of different backgrounds and life experiences. We also enjoyed spending time with the coaches in prayer, practice, competition and fellowship."

Ford was responsible for presenting the goals and objectives of the ministry to coaches, athletes, administration and others so that the ministry could be most effective. At Samford, he coordinated people and activities that led to the development of opportunities to fellowship and sharing the Gospel.

"Our ministry was able to engage in prayer and devotion with various teams throughout the year," Ford said. "Each coach consented to the support of our presence through allowing their athletes to participate in FCA Huddle meetings. In addition, when time permitted, we shared devotionals at practice or competitions through scripture and prayer to inspire athletes and coaches to perform their best for the glory of God."

FCA also worked alongside Campus Ministries. "This venture," Ford said, "led to the development of a FCA Cadre, which enabled students to receive credit toward convocation." Every Tuesday night in the Pete Hanna Center, small groups met to discuss leadership development. They also watched FCA-provided DVDs that showed testimonials of male and female athletes from around the nation. FCA also brought in speakers from the University of Alabama and the local community.

Ford stressed that the strength of the ministry was relative to the leadership team, which consisted of himself and Sherresa and Chris Brasfield. "The Brasfield's hospitality and concern for growth and discipleship added a dimension to the ministry that created a personal element that is unique and vital in Christian

fellowship," Ford said. Sherresa conducted a weekly Bible study at her home for female athletes, in which she hoped would provide an opportunity for young women to discuss Scripture as well as the challenges that arise as young Christian women.

Candace Clippard, a senior physical education major, has participated in FCA for three years. "I chose to be involved with FCA because it's a great way to meet and support other athletes," Clippard said. "However, we are not all athletes and we are trying to expand more to the general student population."

This year the students read through a book called *Habitudes: Images that Form Leadership Habits & Attitudes* by Dr. Tim Elmore. "Each week we either discussed a chapter in small groups or a guest speaker came and spoke on the topic of the chapter," Clippard explained. This discipline was a positive adjustment for the group of athletes. "Discussing these Biblical truths applied to images of leadership, especially in the small group setting, really allowed us to get to know each other better, learn from each other and encourage each other," Clippard shared.

Clippard also served as a huddle leader for the organization. Her job was to plan weekly meetings with the help of Ford and the Brasfields. Along with planning each meeting, she also planned special events, helped in choosing speakers and tried to serve her peers through prayer.

One event, *Fields of Faith* held in October, was hosted by Samford's FCA. A nation-wide activity, *Fields of Faith* indulged students in scripture reading, prayer, testimony and fellowship. "Due to inclement weather," Ford explained, "we met in the gym, but we had approximately 70-80 college and high school students in attendance."

Story: Melissa Gibson

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Jordan Jarvis



# Growing Through Fellowship

RUF, Campus Outreach, UCF

Opportunities abound with worship and Christian fellowship for Samford students. Three popular campus ministries, Reformed University Fellowship (RUF), Campus Outreach and University Christian Fellowship (UCF) offered students involvement in a ministry that fit their schedule and preferred worship style.

On Monday nights, students gathered together for worship in the Flag Colonnade for RUF's weekly group meeting. The music team led students in praise songs, and campus minister Jason Sterling preached on the Psalms, the topic for the fall semester.

Throughout the year, RUF participated in retreats and conferences with RUF groups from other schools. This year's fall conference was held at Camp to Know Him in Pisgah, Alabama. At the winter conference, college students from the southeast converged at Fall Creek Falls in Tennessee for a weekend of worship and relaxation. Also for the first time this year, Samford students attended RUF's summer conference in Panama City Beach, Florida.

"My favorite part about RUF is the emphasis it puts on God's Word. It's truly the center of everything we do," junior journalism and mass communication major Stephen Moss said.

On Tuesday nights, praise music filled Harry's Coffeehouse as Campus Outreach took over the scene. Lindsey Bean, Samford Alumna and current Campus Outreach "Staff Girl," enjoyed being back on campus and connecting with students.

"This year our big thing was to multiply Christ-like leaders. We wanted students to engage their friends to think through spiritual things," Bean said.

She said Tuesday night Campus Outreach meetings were for everyone, while the Thursday morning meeting called Catalyst was specifically designed to push students to "be a positive influence to those around them." This year, members of Campus Outreach participated in a Fall Break rafting trip, a New Years Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, and Beach Project in Florida. Senior International Relations major Anne Morel made time for Campus Outreach every week because she noticed its effect on her life and Samford.

"The focus on discipleship with weekly meetings had a great influence on the Samford community as a whole," Morel said.

UCF met on Wednesday nights and was open to all college students in the Birmingham area. At the end of last school year, founder Joel Brooks announced that he would be stepping down as UCF's lead pastor of nine years in order to start Redeemer Community



Photos top to bottom: RUF begins each service with a time of worship. A benefit of Campus Outreach is getting to fellowship with close friends. Students often stick around after meetings to socialize.

Church in Birmingham. Brooks asked his former University of Georgia roommate, Andy Byers, to be his replacement. Byers attended Beeson Divinity School, graduating in 2001, and earned his Masters of Theology from Duke University in 2006. He served as campus minister at Gardner-Webb University for four years and as pastor of Mount Hermon Baptist Church in North Carolina for two years.

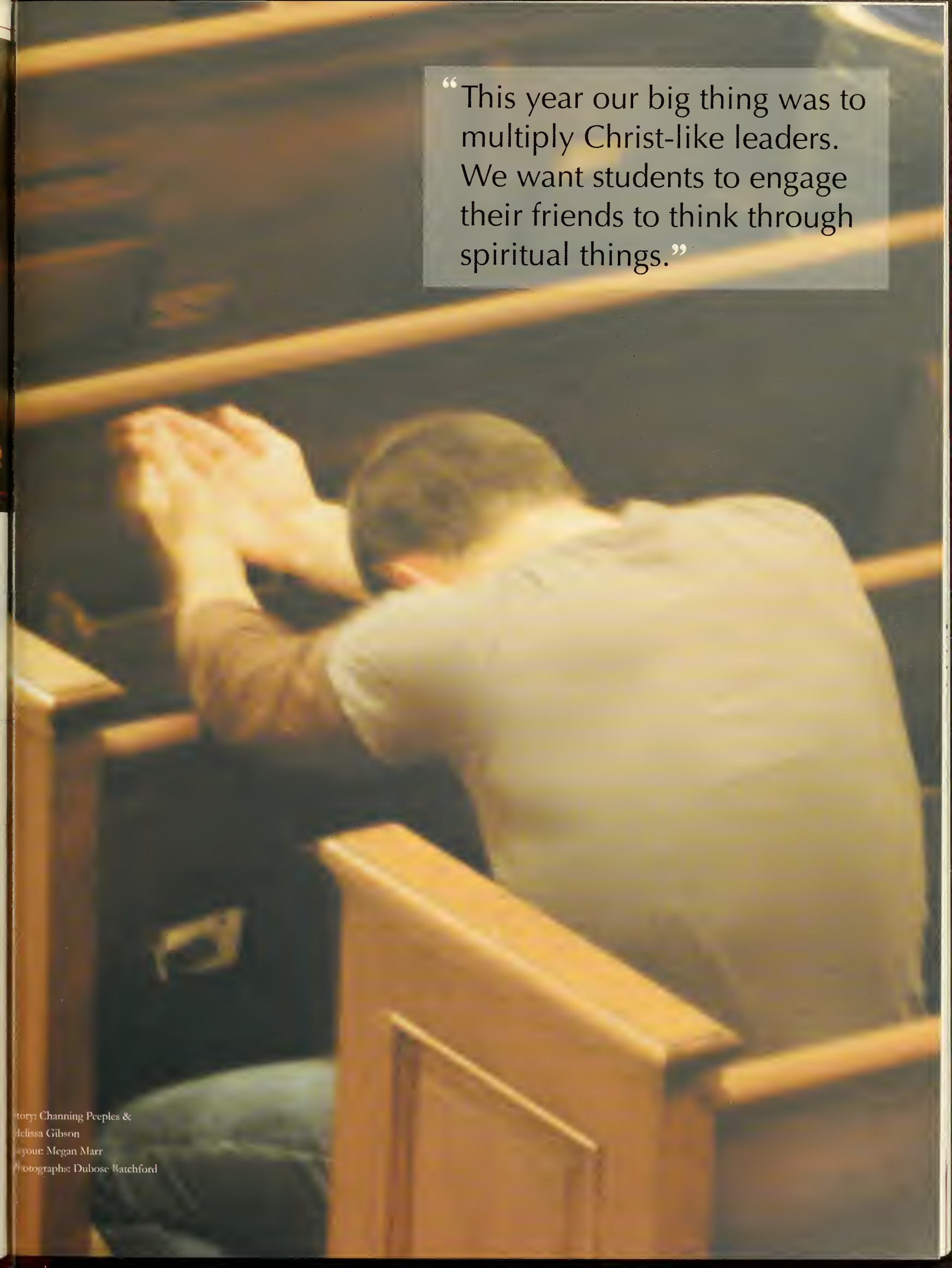
Samford Alumna and Assistant Director of UCF Connie Heiskell said the goal of UCF this year was to focus on community.

"Andy is doing a great job loving on people and really getting to know students well," she said.

Members of UCF had the opportunity to participate in the Fall Retreat November 7-9 at Chestnut Bay Resort and take a Spring Break trip to Haiti. Some students committed to go to Northern Ireland for the summer with the ministry's annual missions trip.

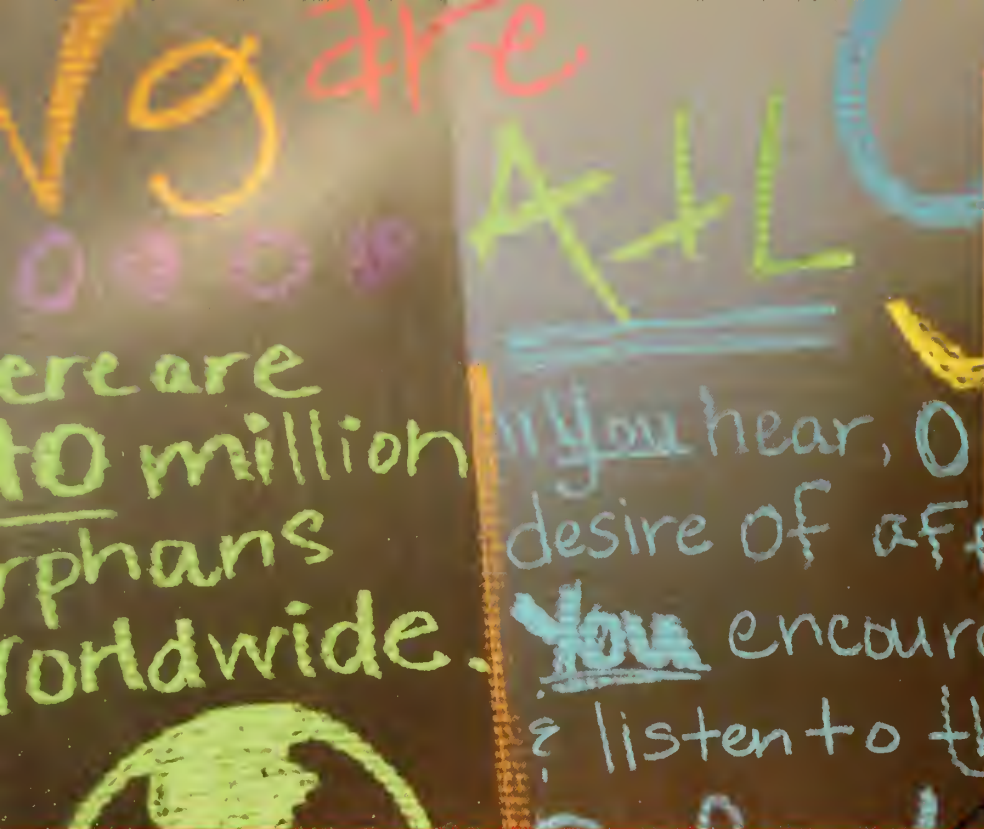




A photograph of a person with short dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt, seen from the back and side. They are in a church, with their hands clasped in prayer. The background shows wooden pews and a dark interior. The lighting is warm and focused on the person.

“This year our big thing was to multiply Christ-like leaders. We want students to engage their friends to think through spiritual things.”





# Experiencing Through Art

University Ministries

Lights dimmed. Soft music played in the background. A piece of birchwood painted black and covered with expressions of the meaning of salvation lay at the altar. Paper leaves with quotes and verses about God's guidance and providence hung by hemp twine from the ceiling. There was a paper tree made of crumpled narratives of suffering, sin, and God's provision. Coffee mugs, a hat and a bowl filled with unanswered and deeply personal questions for God all sat looking abandoned.

This was the atmosphere for fall semester's Theosis, an artistic worship event that followed the Shiloh's summary worship service. University Ministries' Arts and Media committee, which saw its birth during the 2008-2009 school year, arranged this experience. UM formed the committee because of a shared vision for combining art and worship.

Jesse Mitchell, a junior religion and film studies major, served as the chair for the Arts and Media committee this year.

Because art is one of the main ways Mitchell connects with God, he wanted to help other people connect with God in this way as well. "All people can create," he said. "People are often just afraid. I want to free people and give them the opportunity to express themselves through art, because I have found such joy in it."

Freshman Victoria McKenzie, a graphic design major, attended Theosis. "A lot of people feel like they don't get into worship because they have to sing or be musically-gifted," McKenzie said.

"Theosis is more individual, personal, intimate," McKenzie said she enjoyed seeing other people getting into the art and taking it seriously. She said, "To worship through art, you don't have to be an artist. It doesn't have to be a masterpiece. You're just expressing yourself."

McKenzie was also a member of UM's Communications committee. This committee, like the Media and Arts committee, embraced the UM council's goal of enabling students to use their gifts to worship God. Franklin Graves, a junior journalism and mass communication major and the Communications Coordinator, wanted to ensure that the people on his committee were able to work on their own projects and to have their own say in the creative process. He said, "This year, we focused on making sure everyone had a chance to use the gifts God blessed

them with—whether it was painting, drawing, designing, writing or computer graphics."

Another part of UM's vision for this year was to "de-stress" students. This vision involved two components. The first encouraged students to take the Sabbath and use that day to enjoy time with God. The second component

involved not overwhelming students with event after event. Instead of holding many events, they were more intentional with the events they did have. Pursuing this goal, the Social Justice Committee decided to accentuate the Reel Justice events instead of having multiple events for the different organizations represented by the group. The organizations would partner through Reel Justice to promote a common justice initiative, such as Fair Trade or the Living Wage.

**"I want to free people and give them the opportunity to express themselves through art, because I have found such joy in it."**





With the events and the opportunities they offered, UM wanted to engage a broader group of students. The Community Involvement group tried to do this by working with other campus organizations and students who were not connected with other organizations. Coordinator Tim Tapscott, junior pre-dental major, said the committee's initial goals were "to identify areas of the campus where service was an important part of everyday life, such as Greek life, athletics and academic service projects and approach them with partnering opportunities." He also said the committee wanted to determine how other students could get "connected with the community, whether through a UM ministry or through a ministry outside of Samford."

This year University Ministries could be summarized by one of the art pieces at Theosis—the community piece of black birchwood. Freshman early childhood education major Janey Gibson, describing her experience with the piece, said, "We saw people's stories interwoven and saw how we are related to each other in our interpretation of God's love. It was like seeing an expression for something we don't have words for. As the body of Christ we could see each other and see God's love for each other through that expression."

Story: Amanda Cherry

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Jayme Cloninger & Franklin Graves





# To Prosper and Serve

## Student Government Association

The Student Government Association allows students to hold interdisciplinary titles and offices to represent the student body and work together for University improvement. Every college student has aspects that they would like to change about his or her institution. But unlike many larger schools, Samford students know their representatives and are able to make their voices personally heard. The Samford SGA is comprised of hardworking students who work diligently for the change and the good of Samford. They exist to listen to constituents and make students' thoughts heard. In no way has this been proven more valid than the 2008-2009 school year.

During this time, the SGA has taken it upon themselves to improve at least one main aspect on campus: communication. SGA Senate Vice President and the 2009-2010 SGA President-elect Bee Fredrick said, "We have taken major steps this year in communicating with the students including the new SGA bulletin board, round table discussions, open forums, town hall meetings and crimson articles." As a junior communication studies major from Montgomery, Fredrick emphasized that the 2008-2009 officers made a lot of progress all across the board due to this increase in communication. In Senate alone, representatives have worked with students to increase visitation hours and O'Henry's hours and have begun paving the road for changes in the grading and values systems. "All of the branches worked well together this year," Fredrick said. "PAC, Senate and SAC all helped each other out. This is huge since SGA would not be able to reach its full potential without everyone on it, including senators or committee members."

Another large division of SGA is the events that are brought to campus, including concerts. Lee Ross, the 2008-2009 Vice President of Programming, said this year SGA "really tried to

branch out and try new things as well as try to improve upon our important Samford traditions." Old traditions like Lighting of the Way and the Harry's coffeehouse concert series were spruced up and were bigger successes than they have ever been. "We finally have a following of students that show up every week to hear what Samford students have to offer as well listen to some up-and-coming musicians from the surrounding area," Ross said. Despite these great advances, SGA along with SAC, is working hard to bring more concerts to Samford. As evidence of this, Samford hosted O.A.R. during the band's campus consciousness tour.

Wrapping up the 2008-2009 school year, Frederick has a general direction of where he, as Student Body President, wants to lead Samford in the coming year. "Our biggest goal for next year will be continuing to enhance communication with the students," he said. The 2009-elected SEB officers and other SGA members have enough experience to follow through with their goals, but admit that they need cooperation from the rest of the student body. Communication remains their key focus in listening to student's voices and meeting their needs. "We really rely on students to take our SGA surveys to get their opinions on who they would like to see on campus," Ross said. Samford students must continue to speak up in order for SGA to change any needs that

aren't met. Frederick thinks this can happen and said, "Hopefully by informing and communicating more with students, they will get involved."

"Hopefully by informing and communicating more with students, they will get involved."





*Left: Lee Ross, Allyson Dewell, and Natalie Jayne at Leadership Convo. Below: SGA officers at the annual leadership banquet.*



Story: Tara White

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Allyson Dewell





## Serving as the *Face* of Samford

Student Recruitment Team  
and Samford Ambassadors

For three Saturdays in the fall, they were known as the “Red Shirts” on campus. Ready and willing to do anything requested of them, Samford’s Student Recruitment Team played their part in the recruitment of students for the 2009-2010 school year. From opening the door of Vail Hall all day to selling Samford T-shirts, being drilled with questions by parents of prospective students or trying to get the high school students to actually ask questions, each Preview Days was a success.

The Samford Admissions Office hosted three Preview Days this fall, which is one down from last year. However, more prospective students came through the gates than ever before. A total of 542 high school seniors brought their families to get a glimpse of what Samford has to offer, and that’s not including all of the sophomores and juniors who got a jump start on their college search.

“Ambassadors had the opportunity to see tremendous growth in the national recognition of Samford.”

In addition to the traditional Preview Day activities such as student panels for both parents and students, financial aid sessions, admission counselor sessions and campus tours, SRT added some new elements to the schedule this year. Upon registration for a Preview Day, families had the opportunity to purchase football tickets for the game and participate in a tailgate.

Amber Patrick, a junior nursing major, was this year’s SRT secretary. “One of the common misconceptions about the organization is that the Admissions Office does all the work to plan the Preview Days,” Patrick said. “All of the scheduling and plans for the day are coordinated by SRT officers.” Serving alongside Patrick were senior president and biology major Madeleine Mula, senior vice president and biology major Mary Scott Wood and 2009 director of membership nursing major Morgan Welty.

“SRT is a unique and rewarding way to communicate all of those wonderful experiences I have had here at Samford,” senior religion major Grant Millsaps said. “I cannot think of a better way for a high school student to hear about Samford than through the eyes of a current student.”

The SRT isn’t the only group serving as a face of the Samford student body. The Samford Ambassadors also play a significant role in representing the University.

The Samford Ambassadors program is a highly selective and represents less than one percent of the student body. Under the leadership of seniors president and Spanish and history double major Elizabeth Rhea, vice president and elementary education major Lauren Lunceford and secretary and nutrition major Stephanie Elliott, the program saw an increase from 20 to 24 positions this year. This increase added more diversity in order to better represent the student population. Students are chosen to be the “face” of the student body by serving campus and community leaders in various capacities.

“There are no ‘typical’ Ambassador events,” Rhea said. The Ambassadors regularly serve as hosts to guests on campus at sporting events, Board of Trustee meetings, Board of Overseers meetings, Samford Auxiliary meetings, Homecoming, Family Weekend and any special events on or off campus for alumni, current and prospective donors, parents, faculty, staff and the community.

This year, the Ambassadors had the opportunity to see tremendous growth in the national recognition of Samford. With the move into the Southern Conference for athletics, Samford is making a name for itself all over the Southeast. With an increase in publicity, University Relations also hosted more events in Birmingham and across the region.

In his first year serving as an Ambassador, sophomore business management and sociology double major Marshall Pollard was elected the next president of the organization. “This program allows students the unique opportunity to be around the people who make Samford University what it is,” Pollard said. “It really allows us to grow as servant leaders by developing relationships with campus and community leaders.”





Story: Lauren Lunceford  
 Layout : Megan Marr  
 Photographs: Stephen Nelson,  
 Amy Allen & Ashley Bonner





# Something to *Sing* About

## Choirs Across Samford

Samford students love to sing, as hundreds of past Step Sing participants can attest. However, for students who participate in the university's choral programs, singing is more than just a seasonal pastime. Instead, it's a full time pursuit. The School of the Arts provides a wide selection of choral groups where music majors and non-major enthusiasts alike can expand their knowledge and ability. The A Cappella Choir, the University Chorale and the Music Theatre Ensemble are only three of the many choral groups on campus that provide students with the opportunity to hone their talents and use their voices to entertain and uplift audiences, whether performing on campus, down the street or around the world.

"Whatever it takes!" is one of the A Cappella Choir's mottos conductor and Professor Timothy Banks said. This slogan is the foundation of every practice and performance. The A Cappella Choir's pursuit of excellence began in 1939, when Howard College's first full-time music professor Kathleen Martinson founded the group.

Since then, the choir has traveled the world, performing throughout Europe and Asia. This year, the choir traveled throughout France and Italy, performing at locations such as Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. However, Banks said the highlight of the choir's trip was a performance at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The choir's 52 members often serve as ambassadors spreading Samford's mission far and wide. In addition to performing over 40 concerts this year, the choir is also reaching new audiences by posting performances on YouTube, which allows the group to spread its influence even further. "Now with our increasing presence on YouTube, for example, we are reaching an even wider audience than we dreamed possible even a few years ago," Banks said. Whether the group is reaching viewers on the web or across the world, Banks said their goal remains the same. "The mission of the A Cappella Choir is to represent the message of Christ's love through our singing wherever, whenever, and to whomever," he said.

The Hanging of the Green and the annual Choral Vespers performance are two of the most cherished events on campus by students and faculty, and music performed by the University Chorale sets the tone for both.

"Like its historic prototype, University Chorale, an ensemble of approximately 50 singers, is a relatively complete musical organization of instrumentalists and singers that is becoming known for programming that blends the a cappella choral tradition with instrumental color, uniquely honed and focused to lead and provide a distinctive musical and spiritual experience," University Chorale Director and Professor Sharon Lawhon said. The group is open to students from any major and auditions are not required to join.

The Chorale meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week in order to prepare for performances. In addition to the choir's two major performances, they have also performed during convocation and combined with the A Cappella Choir to perform larger choral works with orchestra.

Finally, for members of the Music Theatre Ensemble, singing is only part of the performance. "We like to think of ourselves as triple threats in that most ensembles focus on one element while we combine all three (singing, acting or dancing)," sophomore musical theatre major Hannah Seymour said.

This year, the group staged a production of the musical revue *A...My Name Will Always Be Alice* just in time for Valentines Day. The revue explores the lives and loves of women through music and dance. Since most revues are compilation of songs that lack storylines like larger, more traditional musicals, the performers were able to portray a wide variety of experiences and emotions. "A revue is a compilation of scenes and songs, often a parody of current events, trends and personalities...in this case the personalities of bold, beautiful and sometimes bitter women," Seymour explained. While the theatre department stages one large-scale musical each spring, the ensemble performances offer viewers and performers a much different experience. "Our performances are usually a more intimate show," Music Theatre Ensemble director and Professor Randall Richardson said.

**"The mission of the A Cappella Choir is to represent the message of Christ's love through our singing wherever, whenever, and to whomever."**

The group was created in conjunction with the introduction of the musical theatre degree program in order to provide majors with additional performance opportunities. "We're trying to use this to let our students get more experience," Richardson said. This year, the program also established a partnership with Huffman High School, providing an ensemble performance and master classes taught by Samford professors.

Students who enjoy opera, musical theatre or traditional choral music have found plenty of performance opportunities through choral programs offered by the Department of Music this year. Programs such as A Cappella Choir, University Chorale and Music Theatre Ensemble provide students with the knowledge and training to pursue their passion. That's something to sing about year-round.

Story: Haley Aaron

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Joe Hopkins & Sharon Lawhon





Above: A Cappella Choir singing in Notre Dame in May. Right: University Chorale at the Hanging of the Green.





# Supporting & Networking

## Honor Societies and Major Fraternities

**N**ot only were students busy this year with class loads, homework and extracurricular activities, but many also participated in their major's fraternity or honor society. The Journalism and Mass Communication department's honor society is Kappa Tau Alpha (KTA). In the past, KTA hasn't been active, but this year members wanted to leave their mark.

"We all just really clicked," senior journalism and mass communication major and KTA member Emily Leithauser said. "It just seemed natural for us to actually be a cohesive group. We didn't want to do something for ourselves but instead find a way to serve the JMC department."

KTA established a scholarship financially with two bake sales and donations requests. They also decided to name the scholarship and their chapter after journalism and mass communication professor Dr. Dennis Jones.

"We chose one of our favorite professors for the honor," senior journalism and mass communication major and KTA member Bennett Sumner said. "This year at the JMC picnic, we awarded Dr. Jones with a plaque from the national office."

The Brock School of Business' multiple fraternities and honor societies were also active this year. Several new fraternities and societies were formed, which offered students a wider selection for involvement.

Omicron Delta Epsilon, a new fraternity for economics majors and minors, initiated eight new members. Junior accounting and economics major and Omicron Delta Epsilon President Sara Watson said that members worked hard to develop their program this year by planning speakers and workshops for next year.

**"Supporting your major and each other is what it's all about."**

This year was also the first year for the Financial Management Association. Will Andrews, senior economics and finance major, called it an "interesting time" to start a finance club. However, he said, "We used the financial crisis to our advantage by inviting experts from various areas of finance to give their perspective on the crisis."

Beta Alpha Psi, a national honorary organization for financial information students and professionals, got students involved with the greater community.

"The organization provides a lot of opportunities to connect with fellow accounting majors and meet the accounting firms we hope to work for one day," junior accounting major Taylor Marie Kardoos said. "Beta Alpha Psi also offers many professional development events and community service activities." Students worked with Project Homeless Connect, the Jimmie Hale Mission, cleaned Shades Creek and encouraged bike riders at the Old Howard 100.

The American Marketing Association also had a busy inaugural year. With 20 members, they hosted a discussion with recent graduates to learn about the graduates' experiences, and the director of sales and marketing from Talladega came to speak. They also had a networking mixer at marketing professor Dr. Betsy Holloway's house with six Samford alums.

Alpha Kappa Psi, the general business fraternity, also grew significantly this year. Upon conclusion of the school year, it had more than 58 members and three faculty advisors. "With the incredible support of the chapter leadership this year, we were recognized as one of the most improved chapters in the region," Katie Knuth, senior marketing and management major, said. "With continued dedication from our members, we look forward to connecting brothers with business professionals who can help them become better business leaders."

Many students said they enjoy being involved with the fraternities and honor societies because of the networking opportunities. "It was encouraging to hear so many positive experiences and just to meet enthusiastic graduates that have my degree," senior marketing and finance major Anne Morel said. "Supporting your major and each other is what it's all about."





Story: Melissa Gibson  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Taylor Marie Kardos



# Letters of *Service*

## Alpha Phi Omega

**A**lpha Phi Omega (APO) is a national, co-ed service fraternity. APO's chapter at Samford is Gamma Chi. APO's purpose is to develop leadership, to promote friendship and to provide service to humanity. Its mission is summed up as "preparing campus and community leaders through service."

APO President and junior religion major Kris Roberts said his fraternity added eight new members to its roster this year, bringing its total membership up to 30. Initiation for members was held in the spring of 2009.

Habitat for Humanity and Race for the Cure are two of the organizations APO served fervently this year.

Habitat for Humanity is a national service organization dedicated to providing housing and shelter for members of community in financial and physical crises. APO dedicated its time to help build houses for people in the Birmingham area who were homeless.

Sophomore marketing major Kristin Coffield said, "One of my most memorable experiences while in APO was when we went to work with Habitat for Humanity. We happened to be working on a house that was right next to (another) house that was just finished. The family was going in (it) for the first time. They were so happy and grateful. It made me realize how important it is to serve our community and help others."

**"APO dedicated its time to help build houses for people in the Birmingham area who were homeless."**

Race for the Cure is a national group, which is committed to supporting breast cancer research through fundraising. Each year several races are held to raise money and awareness for breast cancer and discovering a cure for cancer. Roberts said, "My favorite (event) was a project we did with the Hope Lodge where we served dinner to over 60 people awaiting cancer treatment."

Sophomore nursing major Hannah Willhoite said she enjoyed serving the people at Hope Lodge as well. "We served dinner at the Hope Lodge and were able to spend some time with the residents there

and play games," she said. "It was a good time, and I think they are looking forward to the next time we come."

Roberts said that this year's supporters of Samford's chapter of APO gave large contributions to the fraternity. Companies like Olive Garden and Walmart were part of APO's success in serving its peers on campus and the surrounding community.

Leadership positions for Alpha Phi Omega are as follows:

President: Kris Roberts

Vice President: Kristen Coeffield

Rush Chair: Hannah Willhoite

Pledge Trainer: Katie Snyder

APO's faculty advisor is professor Roderick Davis.

Story: Ryan Hagan  
Layout: Megan Marr





## Gamma Sigma Sigma

**G**amma Sigma Sigma is a national service sorority. At Samford, Gamma Sigma Sigma's chapter is called Delta Sigma.

Gamma Sigma Sigma's purpose is "to assemble college and university students in the spirit of service to humanity and to develop friendship among students of all races and creeds." Its dedicated mission is a "lifelong commitment to service and diversity, in an environment of unity and equality, while creating opportunities for growth."

Gamma Sigma Sigma traditionally starts off the school year with a non-selective rush, which includes a meet-and-greet, service project and social event. After rush, Gamma Sigma Sigma has its Sisterhood retreat, which is a special social event for its members.

"One of my favorite memories from Gamma Sigma Sigma this year was our retreat," junior Spanish major Lara Shatas said. "I was encouraged by this because the sorority is growing, and it's wonderful to be able to bond easily with new girls because you are working to help the community together."

Gamma Sigma Sigma has been active among its peers on campus and in the community. Sophomore elementary education major Sarah Branum said Halloween kicked off one of the first major events for Gamma Sigma Sigma. The girls trick-or-treated for canned goods to help support the United Way's local food bank.

"My favorite thing that we did was trick-or-treating for canned goods around Homewood and Vestavia," Branum said. "We were in groups that dressed up in themes and competed to see who could get the most cans. People were always surprised when we told them we wanted canned goods for charity rather than candy for ourselves."

Christmas brought many opportunities for fun and service. The sisters of Gamma Sigma Sigma organized a Christmas party for children at the Titusville Public Library and packed shoeboxes filled with toys and necessities for children worldwide to be distributed by Operation Christmas Child.

Sisters also participated in painting wagons and organizing a pizza and game night for patients at Children's Hospital in Birmingham. They dedicated every Monday night in April to making dinners for the Vestavia Hills city firemen, helped build houses for the underprivileged with Habitat for Humanity and

continued to help support Relay for Life at Samford.

Gamma Sigma Sigma created a March of Dimes team this year. It held a karaoke night as a benefit for its team later in the year.

President Nicole Williams, sophomore sociology major, said, "I have learned so much about our sorority. We have been able to broaden our service base and get involved in some different things."

The sorority has continued to support Samford's commitment to service and ministry. The girls have been instrumental volunteers in groups sponsored by University Ministries, like Ville Crew and the Perry County Initiative.

With Ville Crew, sorority members played with disadvantaged children, hosted cook outs for the kids and their parents and taught Bible stories. Members also traveled to Perry County, one of Alabama's black belt counties. There they served the children and adults of the area.

Gamma Sigma Sigma also sponsors an event on campus called The Howard Showcase. This is its third year running as a campus-wide pageant for Samford students who are active in charitable organizations. Each participant competes to represent his or her organization and must portray the organization's importance and impact in daily society. Judges then choose a winning student who is awarded with proceeds from the ticket sales.

The 2008-2009 Gamma Sigma Sigma leaders are as follows:

President: Nicole Williams

Vice President of Service: Jennifer Rice

Vice President of Membership: Sydney Davis

Secretary: Lara Shatas

Treasurer: Joy Massaad

Public Relations: Camille Karst

Fundraising Chair: Caroline May

Social Chair: Lindsey Vaughan

Chaplains: Katie Shaddix and Nicole Roberts

Historian: Jen Vinson

Howard Showcase Chair: Kara Graves

Story: Ryan Hagan

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Lindsey Vaughan  
and Nicole Williams





# Building for the Sake of *Others*

## Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps

What an average student may know as ROTC, participants call the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Detachment 012. At Samford, the detachment has a legacy of producing some of the finest second lieutenants in the Air Force. The ROTC serves as a commissioning source into the Air Force, while also providing many career opportunities. At Detachment 012, cadets not only train to become quality second lieutenants, but they also participate in many different activities that make the training experience both fun and rewarding.

The ROTC serves as one of three commissioning sources into the Air Force. The other two are the Air Force Academy and Officer Training School. Upon entrance into the program, a cadet is known as a General Military Course (GMC) cadet. These cadets are considered to be cadet enlisted for the first two years of the program. Upon completion, they are required to attend a four-week officer boot camp known as Field Training. After Field Training, cadets are promoted to the position of Professional Officer Course (POC) cadets, who serve as cadet officers for the final two years of the program. The last commissioning awards cadets to be second lieutenants of the Air Force, which is awarded upon graduation.

This year the detachment's enrollment increased to 20 underclassmen cadets and seven upperclassmen. As the program gains more recognition and respect each year, more and more students look to join the program.

"This year, the Air Force is going great for me. I am learning more as I progress on how to be a leader and demonstrate it. I also look forward to being a great attribute to the Air Force and showing those leadership qualities," Carlvear Bryant said in the fall.

Each summer throughout training, cadets are afforded many different opportunities to build their leadership skills. These specialized programs include Rising Sophomore Program (RSP), Freefall, Soar, Cultural Immersion Programs and Cadet Training Assistants (CTAs).

In addition to these opportunities, the detachment participates in many other activities both on and off campus all year. Cadets can become a part of a professional, honorary service organization known as Arnold Air Society (AAS). They can also participate in fundraisers and service events in the local community. Cadets also present the colors at Samford football games, tour active duty Air Force bases, learn martial arts for self-defense and are a part of many detachment-wide social events, which includes the annual Dining In and Dining Out ceremony.

This year, the detachment served at the University of Alabama football games by parking cars and standing as security. They learned self-defense at the Dojo karate center in downtown Homewood, as well as realistic self-aid buddy care training.

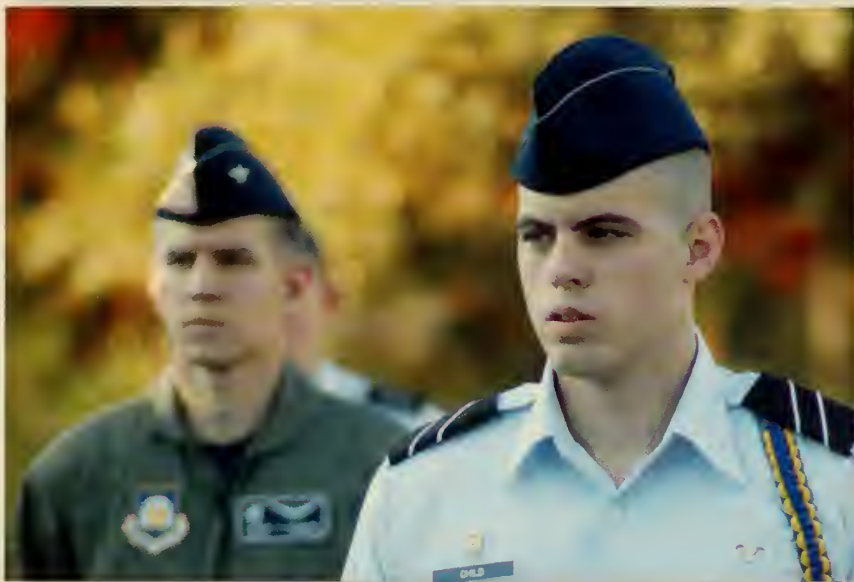
The most important event that cadets look forward to is their commissioning in May at the end of their four years of service at Samford. This year commissioning was on May 15. Graduating cadets received their Second Lieutenant bars (also referred to as "butter bars") and take their oath of office. This signifies their commissioning as officers in the United States Air Force.

The group's mission statement is to "recruit, train, educate and commission the best second lieutenants in the United States Air Force." This mission includes the fact that not only does Detachment 012 commission officers as second lieutenants, it also offer programs and opportunities to enhance one's leadership apart from the weekly routine. Samford cadets are proud to have their detachment name recognized and will continue to prepare cadets to be the outstanding officers in the best Air Force in the world.

Story: Jordan Anderson  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Janell King,  
Flag by Jordan Jarvis







Recruit, train, educate  
and commission the best  
second lieutenants in the  
United States Air Force 🇺🇸





## A Year Requiring *Perseverance*

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### Samford Republicans

**D**espite not winning the 2008 elections, Samford Republicans continued with every year's plan of promoting the party's values and beliefs on campus. As a representative of the majority of Samford's student body's political views, the club is faced with the challenge of meeting this majority's expectations of a strong campus presence.

This year, the club hosted voter registration drives and volunteered at other off campus voter registration drives hosted by the Alabama Republican Party, the Mid-Alabama Republican Club and the Birmingham Young Republicans. The club also hosted events that were open to the campus featuring key members of the Republican Party. Alabama State Treasurer Kay Ivey and John McCain's Finance Chairman, Frederic Malek, were among the politicians whom the club hosted throughout the year. Speakers shared information about the Republican Party's platform and policies.

In order to further educate the student body on the platform of Senator McCain, the Samford Republicans held a town hall meeting where students were able to ask questions about the presidential candidates. Several members spoke about McCain's views on the economy, taxes, the environment and foreign policy. They also presented differences between the candidates.

Additionally, the club held bi-monthly meetings where various politicians or prominent political figures in Alabama came to speak. The speakers gave members a chance to hear about what the Republican Party is doing in Alabama. Also, several members volunteered at various Republican organizations in Alabama to further experience the world of politics and to get a better grasp on the status of the Republican Party.

Despite an unsuccessful campaign for their candidate, the Samford Republicans continued to do everything they could to encourage the republicans within the student body to not lose hope in their political party.

Story: Alex Cloke  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Stock Imagery





# OBAMA BIDEN

## Making the *Presence* Known Samford Democrats

**W**ith the success of President Obama in the 2008 election, the Samford Democrats had an exciting year. Despite being a minority at Samford, the Samford Democrats proved to have just as much dedication as other political clubs. Junior political science major and president of the club, Will Weaver, said that being a blue spot in a sea of red proved to be a blessing in disguise.

"Because there is a very vocal opposition to many of our ideals and to the Democratic Party as a whole on Samford's campus, our members are given many opportunities to engage in debate and to truly refine and reexamine their beliefs," Weaver said.

Junior international relations major Rachel Corr said, "Because our group is in the minority among the Samford student body, we have strived to create and maintain a well-known presence on campus."

The club's mission is to live out the values in which they base their political ideals and to provide an outlet for members to engage the ideas, fairness, justice and social responsibility, at the base of the democratic platform. This year, the Samford Democrats reached their goals in a number of ways.

As well as having monthly meetings for members to refine and critique their ideals as a club, the Samford Democrats hosted a lecture series to reach out to people who may not see eye-to-eye with the democratic ideas. The speakers for the lecture series were Bill Baxley, the former Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General who advocated for civil rights; Congressman Artur Davis who

currently represents Alabama's Seventh Congressional District and is a candidate for Governor in 2010; and Susan Pace Hammit, a renowned author and advocate of a more fair tax structure.

Many members of the club are involved in school, state and federal government. The club makes an effort to provide students with opportunities to become involved in state initiatives or campaigns. A number of members took the fall semester off to help Obama win the presidential election. In accordance with their mission statement, several members have also volunteered with Impact Alabama to help with vision screenings for grade school students.

The Samford Democrats aim to educate anyone who will listen about the ideals of the Democratic Party.

Story: Alex Cloke  
Layout: Megan Marr  
Photographs: Stock Imagery





# From a *Personal* Perspective

## Exodus, engage and the Crimson

Student expression was brought to new heights this year. Exodus, engage and Sojourn are Samford student-published magazines. Each team of students had a specific goal for its magazine this past year, which allowed each one to send out a revolutionary message.

Exodus is the only magazine that is completely run by journalism and mass communication majors on the print journalism track. This final project gave 11 seniors a chance to embrace their creativity and send out an issue that is a “quality publication and really focused on writing,” Exodus’ editor-in-chief and senior journalism and mass communication major Bennett Sumner said.

The theme this year was “Go,” which is full of stories of Birmingham life. The Exodus staff worked hard to present a common theme throughout the magazine. Sumner and her classmates emphasized this by having 11 pages of half-page, interconnected blurbs. Sumner said she wanted every reader to be encouraged by the magazine and “to ‘Go’ and to not be afraid to use it as a tool to discover Birmingham.”

engage magazine has been prevalent on Samford’s campus since 2005. Although the grant that backed engage depleted last year, the team that runs it continued with limited sources of

funding. This magazine is quickly becoming a Cinderella story on campus. It’s continuing to thrive despite its less-than-ideal circumstances. Editor-in-chief and junior journalism and mass communication major Emma Schell said she realized engage’s influence has slipped with its funding. “It feels like students don’t even know it’s still on campus,” Schell said.

Still, she said she believes the loss of funding hasn’t had any effect on the quality of articles. The writers still have submitted great articles. This past year the magazine had articles ranging from Toms shoes to interviews with authors such as Donald Miller. Schell said, “Just read it. You never know what you’ll find in engage.”

Sojourn is a unique literary arts magazine published by Samford

students from every part of campus. The submissions include art, photography and literature from different majors and faculty. Sojourn’s jumping-off point involved three words – experience, capture, unleash. Editor-in-chief and senior journalism and mass communication major Jenny Davell said, “You have to experience something before you can capture it by drawing it or writing about it or photographing it, then you have to unleash it by publishing it.”

If you know only one thing about Sojourn, Davell said she wants you to know that it is a great avenue for anyone to be able to express themselves in a way that will be read by most people on campus.

This year the Samford Crimson focused particularly on being professional with flair. It bridged the gap between the students’ voice and the administration.

Editor-in-chief and junior journalism and mass communication major Emily Leithauser said her biggest accomplishment this year was being very careful to keep the stories in line. She said she wanted to make sure the Crimson and the university

administration worked together as a team to keep students informed rather than it being competition to see who can get information out fastest.

The Crimson team also worked hard to mesh with the digital age. Leithauser

said junior journalism and mass communication major Franklin Graves, the online editor, improved the website into a stronger partner.

In the fall of 2009, Crimson stories will appear on AL.com. The Samford Crimson is the first and only college publication whose stories will appear on the website.

Leithauser said, “The Crimson is the voice of the students. Read the Crimson, and you’ll find out what’s important to us.”

“Just read it, you never know what you'll find...”

Story: Molly Braswell

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Megan Marr,

Jordan Jarvis & Janell King





er joins  
staff  
Page 6



# nson

VOLUME 94 | ISSUE 24

out the semester







# Victory through Trial and Debate

## Mock Trial and Debate Teams

The Samford Mock Trial and Debate teams both had strong performances this year and received several invitations to prestigious national tournaments. The debate team, coached by Ryan Galloway and Abi Williams, experienced success at both the varsity and junior varsity levels throughout the year.

The varsity team, comprised of junior political science major Logan Gramzinski and freshman journalism and mass communication major Dan Bagwell, performed well at several national competitions, reaching elimination rounds of major tournaments at West Georgia and North Texas. The junior varsity team, comprised of freshmen political science majors Ben Johnson, and Jacob Lewis, was also successful, reaching elimination rounds of the Texas and Kentucky tournaments. Gramzinski and Bagwell took top honors at the Vanderbilt tournament in October, beating the University of Georgia in the final round. Gramzinski was named the top speaker out of over fifty individual debaters.

The junior varsity team, comprised of Lewis and sophomore international relations major Jayme Cloninger, were Vanderbilt finalists, beating teams from Emory and Miami in elimination rounds. In February, the debate team traveled to Atlanta to compete for a bid to the National Debate Tournament, where only 78 teams in the country compete. Gramzinski and Bagwell placed third overall and received a bid to the National Debate Tournament, placing above nationally competitive teams such as Georgia and Vanderbilt.

"It's really tough to qualify for nationals in our district," Gramzinski said. "There are several nationally competitive teams that were vying for spots, so qualifying this year was really an

honor." Samford had a strong district showing in each level of competition.

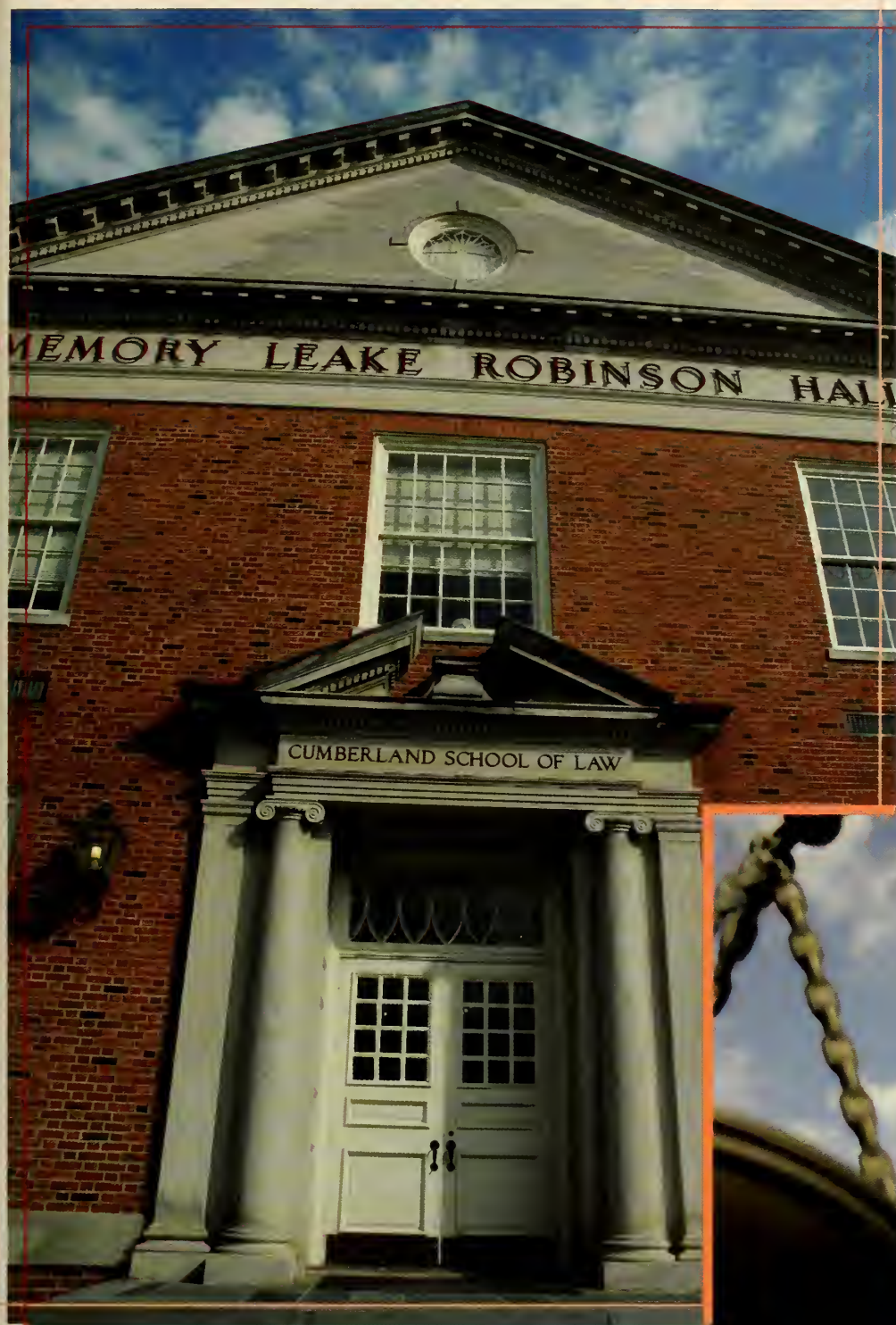
Freshman economic major Connor Penwell was ranked sixth Novice Speaker, and Cloninger was named Top Junior Varsity Debater in the Southeast Central. Gramzinski was also named Most Outstanding Regional Varsity Speaker. "Most of our team consists of up-and-coming freshmen and sophomores," Williams said. "I'm glad to see them experiencing such success this early in their careers."

The Mock Trial team also had an impressive season that led to national competition invitations. The team earned its invitations at the two most significant regional qualifying tournaments. Samford defeated teams from Georgia, Faulkner and Mercer to advance to the national level. "The competition is intense," coach Michael Rasmussen said. "An enormous amount of preparation is required for a successful run, and only the best teams get to the national tournaments."

The team of law students consists of Lisha Li, Megan Head, Ashley Reitz and Josh Hornady competed at the National Trial Competition, which is sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association. The team of Summer Davis, Tim Douthit, Jessica Jones and Shannon Elliott competed at the National Student Trial Advocacy Competition, which is sponsored by the American Association of Justice. Samford has won the National Student Trial Advocacy Competition tournament three times.

"We have a nationally recognized program," Rasmussen said. "Our success is built on a solid foundation of courses related to litigation, intra-school competitions, and support from the dean, the faculty, and the alumni, all of which promise continued success."





“I'm glad to see them experiencing such success early in their careers.”





# Composing a Department

## Music Department

Samford's music school saw growth and development throughout the entire 2008-09 school year. From the overall structure to performances from the groups and ensembles, expansion was not a foreign concept. A few years ago a new Dean, President, and Director of the instrumental groups were hired simultaneously. Their goal was to revamp the music program and this year their hard work paid off. Expansion included the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Orchestra, Marching Band, Percussion Band, Horns, Alumni Band and Orchestra, which was the largest in Alabama as of spring 2009. Each of these groups had at least one concert in the fall semester.

"The whole program is growing, and I'm very excited about it," Dr. Jim Smisek, director of the Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, and Symphonic Orchestra said. This year the music school saw approximately 50 auditions for the instrumental programs. Smisek expects at least 30 of the applicants to enroll, an increase of 30 percent to the Marching Band.

In the fall, the Marching Band performed at football games with a season-long Beatles theme. The Alumni Band and Choir had the opportunity to join the performance at the Homecoming game. Smisek said the theme for next year's Marching Band is Classic Rock n' Roll. "I want to entertain the crowd," he said. "In my experience I have found Rock n' Roll is the best way to do that."

"The whole program is growing, and I'm very excited about it."

The Samford music school also hosted the Honor Band in the fall. Honor Band is a weekend seminar where the best band students from middle and high schools in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Florida and Georgia are invited to Samford to participate in classes taught by Samford students and faculty regarding their specific instrument or instrumental group. The weekend culminates with a performance by the entire Honor Band. This program proved to be a great educational tool for the students and a fantastic recruiting opportunity for the Arts department as 500 of the best

Southeastern music students were introduced to Samford's music school.

As the Samford music program continues to grow, excitement generates from both graduating and entering students. "I'm slightly jealous of all the new growths that the incoming students will get to experience," senior music major Rebecca Mayhall said. "But at the same time, I'm really glad to see how much we're growing."

This summer, the music program will go international. The A Capella Choir was invited to perform at Notre Dame and for the Pope at the Vatican. Only 60 choirs have been chosen to sing at Notre Dame in 2009, and the performances at the Vatican are even more selective. Samford was chosen based on recorded material and a longstanding tradition of excellence. Dr. Joe Hopkins, Dean of the School of the Arts, said, "We are exceedingly proud of the current students of Samford A Cappella Choir and the long tradition of accomplishments by this remarkable ensemble."

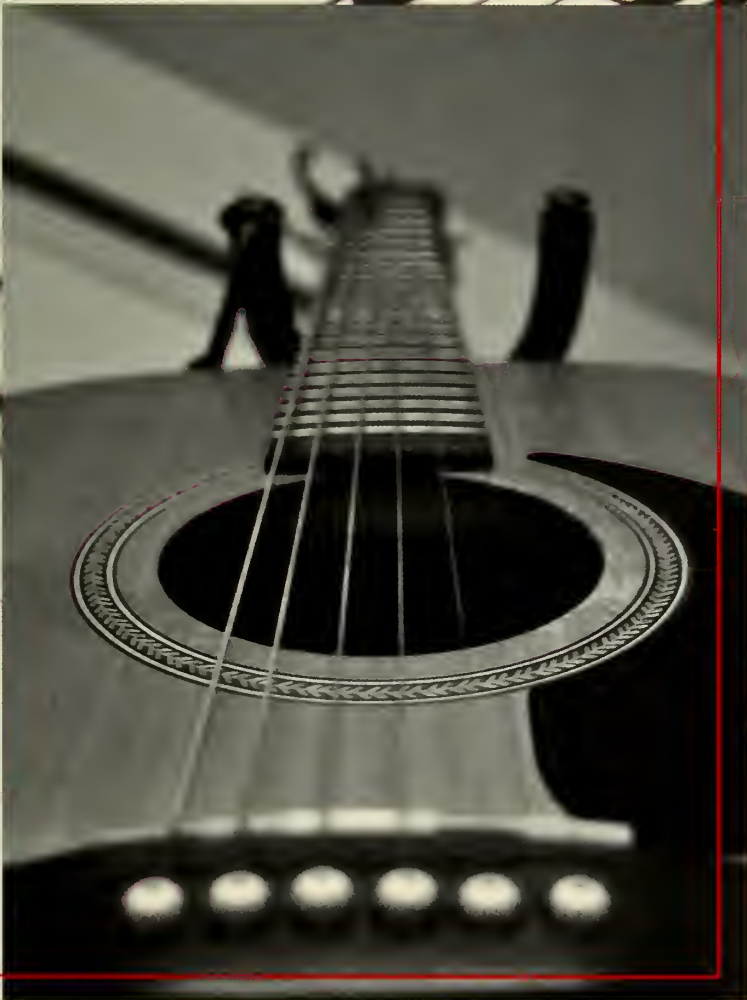
Story: Will Stewart

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Jordan Jarvis,

Lean Jane Henderson & Dubose Ratchford













“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow... for we are God’s co-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

*1st Corinthians 3:7, 9*










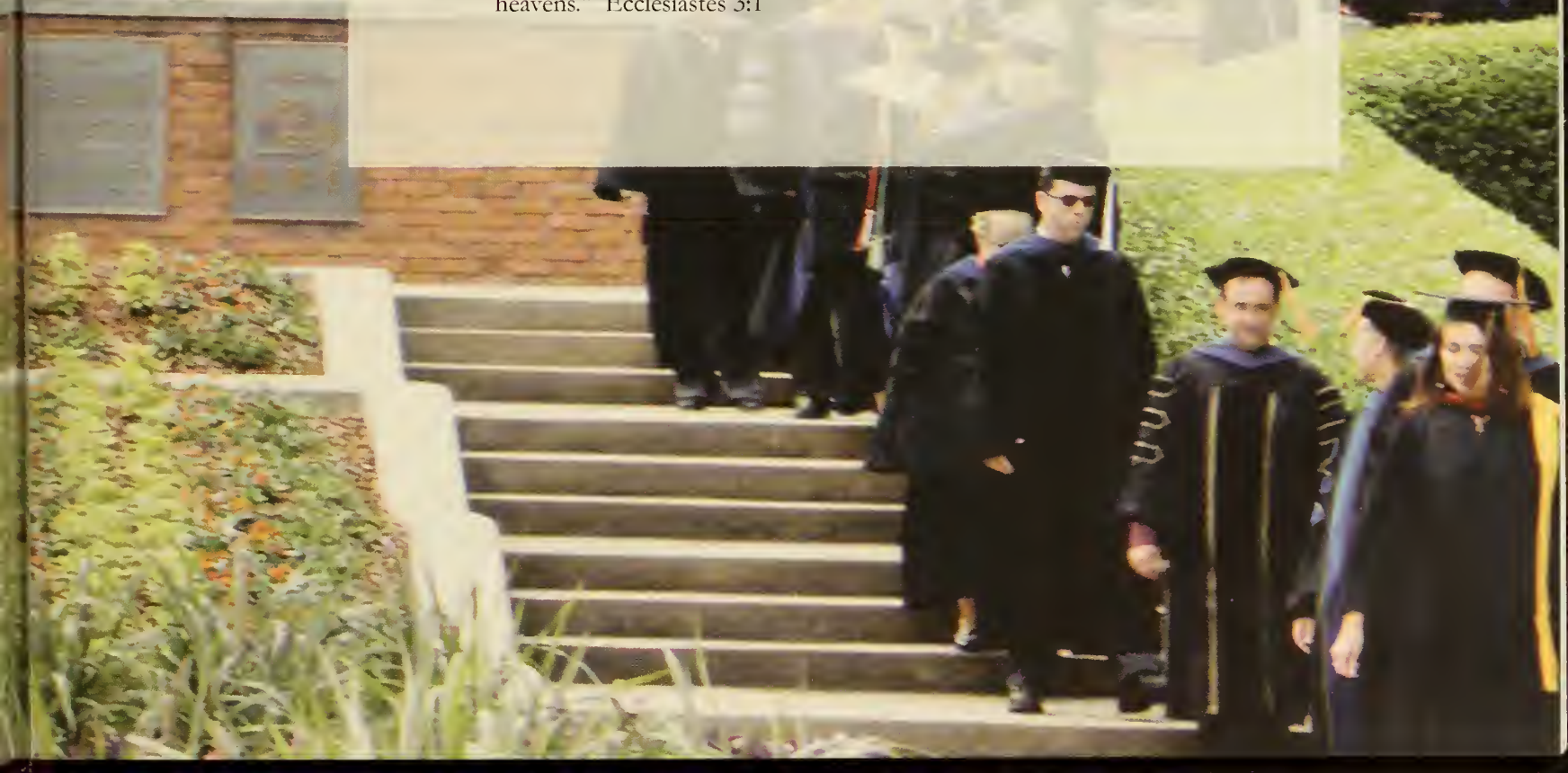
# Seniors



**F**our years (or more...) at Samford go by in the blink of an eye. Ask any senior and he or she will tell you that in the grand picture, it seems like the experience just began. While graduation brings the sign of moving on to the next season of life, seniors can't help but recollect memories from their time as a Bulldog.

God, in His perfect ways, establishes seasons in our lives that we may or may not recognize. For the seniors, the overall season of college years is gone and the new season of life beyond the wrought-iron gates has begun. We must look back at the growth we have and see that there, truly is, a time for everything.

"There is a *time* for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Ecclesiastes 3:1





In 20 years, what will you miss most about Samford?

Friends

professors

Samford in the Spring

Baked potatoes from the food court

Dad's Wallet

living with all of my best friends

the Community

late night Taco Bell runs

Feeling like part of something

being independent, yet not having responsibilities.









# Senior reflection

Murphy Maddox

I am in every sense a dreamer. Growing up, I was that kid who walked around with his head in the clouds, hopeful for the future and somewhat frustrated with the humdrum of the here and now. I was not entirely discontent, I just perceived what was through the promising lens of what could be. This trait set me apart from my peers, which brought considerable difficulties. After one hard day in sixth grade, my ever-supportive mom said, "Murphy, I believe you are like Joseph." As my young mind recalled the man famous for his colorful coat, all I could think about were the hardships he endured. At the time, I could not understand why I should take comfort from her words. Now I realize what a turning point that comparison was in my life. Like He did for Joseph, God has continually opened wide the doors of blessing in my life and given me the courage to chase my dreams.

Unfortunately, dreams so often run alongside fears. At the same time most things worth pursuing require a risk. God never intended for us to be ruled by our fears but rather to be governed by faith. It is extraordinary that when we are completely dependent upon Him, what was impossible seems possible. Suddenly, we are living by faith instead of by fear. I know that I would have missed out on some of the best experiences of my life if I had allowed fear to keep me from my dreams.

Senior year of high school, the thought of singing in front of people made me absolutely sick. I had a deep passion for singing, but I was terrified of sharing it with others. My creative drive warred with my raging perfectionism. Eventually I decided to try it. I survived a couple voice lessons and a terrifying Christmas solo at church and then everything changed. At the insistence of my voice teacher, I auditioned at Samford. When I was accepted, vocal performance became a frightening reality. Now, after four years of training, seven shows, numerous performances, and two solo recitals, my once ulcer-inducing fear has been tamed by my persistent and practical pursuit of a dream.

The fall of my junior year, I pondered the possibility of putting on a Masquerade Ball for the Samford student body. After talking to several encouraging friends, I realized that a Viennese Masked Ball could make a lasting impression, be an incredible party and a tremendous opportunity to give back to the community. Sadie Frazier joined me in my vision, and, together, we spent the following months laying groundwork for the large event. We organized a student planning committee. Then the dream grew. I have also learned that dreams are put to the best use when they are used to serve others, so an event that started out as a party became a charity ball that I hoped would benefit a Birmingham charity. VSA Arts of Alabama was the organization we chose. As I learned more about their purpose, I became especially passionate about this organization. It takes art and music as a form of therapy into hospitals and clinics throughout Alabama. This change put me out of my comfort zone as I would have to address another fear of mine—fundraising.

At this point, I did not know that God had been preparing me for this experience through another aspect of my life. My favorite Samford involvement has been serving as a Samford Ambassador. Through university connections, we arranged for a lunch with Mrs. Bonnie Bolding Swearingen, an alumna and gracious supporter of Samford. Elizabeth Rhea, another Ambassador and a committee member, joined me in asking Mrs. Swearingen for her support of the Masquerade Ball. Knowing that our chances were slim, we enjoyed two hours conversing over lunch in the Rotunda Club. When Mrs. Swearingen casually informed me that she would underwrite the entire budget, the entire nature of the ball changed drastically. The conversation did not end there, though. Speaking from years of experience, she continued to expand the dream, suggesting ideas I had never considered.

Mrs. Swearingen's inspiration literally got the ball rolling. With the help of six committee members and many volunteers among the Samford faculty and staff, one of the biggest student dreams outside of Step-Sing was in

"I have learned that dreams are put to the best use when they are used to serve others."





full swing. There were many nights in which I would spend countless hours on ball details instead of on my homework. Sometimes the details were overwhelming. It would have been very easy to lose sight of what I was working for and let my fears consume me. At times the vision of what I wanted this event to be was the only thing that kept me going. The committee and I sent a few hundred invitations into the Birmingham community, as well as to every student and faculty at Samford.

Miraculously, we got everything done and on November 15, 2008, the red carpet was rolled out, and Midnight Masquerade: An Evening in Vienna came upon the Wright Center in the grandest of fashion. I told the caterer of the desserts and hors d'oeuvres to have a generous amount of food for 300 people. God definitely multiplied the loaves! Over 650 masked guests walked through the doors, almost tripling our original goal for ticket sales. The evening was a magnificent success. After the numbers were processed from the silent auction, ticket sales,

and donations, we were able to present a check to VSA arts of Alabama for \$9,212.13. The short story is that God blessed a crazy dream.

Now I am a senior in college. As I packed up old things from home, I found several sketches, journal entries, and even letters left over ten years ago for a grown version of myself. My childhood itch for the future has matured into an appreciation for exactly where God has brought me. My dreams have changed significantly over the years. I trace my life's growth through these dreams—a few of them noble, more of them ridiculous, and most of them unveiled only to God.

Story: Murphy Maddox

Layout : Megan Marr

Photographs: Megan Marr





# Senior reflection

Nathan Troost

To start, let me say what an honor it is to have the opportunity to write about my experience at Samford these last four years. My story is no better than that of anyone else. We've all gone through our ups and downs, our times of growth and stagnation, times of faith and doubt, times of achievement and failure. But before I begin to sound too much like Ecclesiastes, let me say I hope you can relate to my experience and how I've grown over my last four years. I hope it causes you take time to reflect on your own growth during your time at Samford. To the freshman, I hope you see all my mistakes and learn from them. To the senior, I hope you can join me in my experience and use it to look forward to this next phase of our lives.



So what have I learned during my time at Samford? Well, I've learned that Samford will always have construction. I've learned that Cinnamon Toast Crunch is the most popular cereal in the Caf, and if I see it available when I first walk in I better go ahead and get it because it won't be there when I come back. I've learned that the students that work in the Food Court are the only Samford students to listen to our radio station, Birmingham's Smooth Jazz. But seriously, I will just take a moment to offer a few "Nate Nuggets of Wisdom" I've come to observe at Samford. Many of these experiences I hope serve as simple reminders as you undoubtedly have similar experiences.

My first, and perhaps most important lesson to offer: learning about sex twice a week for an entire semester was tougher than I thought, but the infamous Human Sexuality class did teach me a few things. The running joke through the spring of my Junior year was that sex would ruin my GPA. Funny thing about those sort of things, they actually become reality. Now I realize I have no sympathy from anyone when I say the A- I got in my Human Sexuality class would be my lowest grade at Samford and I'd finish with a 3.99 instead of a 4.0, but bear with me as I open up what I went through and what I learned from the experience.

I've always had high expectations of myself, especially with regard to academics. For a long time now, I've also claimed to seek to glorify God in everything I do, which means striving for my best in everything including my schoolwork. This means my 4.0 was supposedly for God's glory. However, the empty feeling I had in my gut when I saw that A- taught me I wasn't really living what I thought I was. My motivation for good grades wasn't for God's glory but for my own, and it hit me like a truck.

I feel like that's something I easily fall into: working hard to earn man's affirmation and gain glory for myself rather than God. I was faced with that challenge again when the Alabama Broadcasters Association named me the best large market sportscaster in the state. I received loads of support from everyone in the Samford community, which I appreciated greatly, but it made it difficult to remain humble while in the spotlight. God says in Isaiah that He will not yield His glory to another, so how dare I ever attempt to be glorified over Him. Yet it's so easy to fall into that deceptive and selfish trap. My prayer is that I can learn from these experiences to better resist any temptation to take glory for myself.

Another lesson I learned at Samford is how important it is to show appreciation for people. There are so many that make this school what it is who go unnoticed every day. Whether it's Ms. Gladys who cleans our buildings in Beeson Woods or Mr. Charlie who fixes everything under the sun or Ms. Dot who tirelessly swipes our cards in the Caf. A lot of times at an institution as fine as Samford, in a free country like the one we live in, we can take so much for granted. Because blessings are handed to us every day, it can become so easy to go about life and show no appreciation to those who make our days so great.

I've learned that showing appreciation for people isn't something that's just going to happen naturally, it's something that takes some actual effort. And I know I don't show appreciation near as much as I should, but I pray God will continue to lay it on

my heart that I would increasingly show appreciation for those around me.

On that note, I would like to thank all those at Samford whom I have developed relationships with and who make this institution what it is. The people are too numerous to call by name right now. But that reminds me of another important aspect of life I've learned. Relationships are so important in our lives, and they don't come without work. Unfortunately, I've had relationships with friends at Samford slip away because I didn't put enough effort into them, and I would say it's one of my few regrets over

these four years. I am so thankful for the relationships I currently have, and I pray I would not let them go but hold on tight to them, and continue to work on them.

**"My motivation for good grades wasn't for God's glory but for my own, and it hit me like a truck."**

So after spending oodles of money to come to Samford when I could have gone to school in Florida for free, what did I learn? Well no offense to the faculty, but the most important things I learned here were not from the classroom, but from outside my academic studies. It's the larger life lessons – giving God His due glory, showing appreciation, and developing long-lasting relationships – that I will take away from this university. I thank God for giving me this opportunity, and I look forward to seeing how He will use my Samford experience to impact the rest of my life as well as those around me.

Story: Nathan Troost

Layout: Megan Marr

Photographs: Megan Marr





















Emily Fulghan, Ben Jenkins, Louis-Daniel Rojas, Amanda Williams, Mark Adkins,  
Matthew Andrews, Patrick Baggett, Elizabeth Bowen, Austin Brooks, Kristen Bucher,  
Jonathan Coffield, Caitlin Cowin, Jason Farris, Phillip Gewin, Christopher Goree,  
Brandon Haumschilt, John Hutto, Andrew Johnson,  
Kim Leland, Scott Maxfield, Jeffery Moore.





Todd Oakley, Jessica Odom, Christopher Pitts, Richard Rice, Sydney Trew,  
 Leah Troxler, James Vibert, Derrick Watson, Christina Westbrook, William Whitehead,  
 Tyler Watson, Tiffany Allen, Anna Blaylock, Dana Buckley, Tracey Deaux,  
 Laura Echerd, Jessica Garnett, Shannon Ivey, Brittany Lee, Logan Lowrey,  
 Leah Mann, Anna McCoy, Rachel Mincey, Cryssa Ravener, Meredith Rodgers.





Teresa Forrest, Brue Brawner, Shequletta Moseley, Katherine Sweat,  
Randy Barnette, Cythia Batley, William Phillips, Ashlet Adams, Bethany Benson,  
Lauren Brennan, Sara Carroll, Alexandria Darnell, Brittann Davis,  
Caroline Ellenburg, Jordan Elliott, Mary Griffin, Leslie Hawkins,  
Katherine Hullins, Melissa Kinney, Casey Lamb, David Lee, Melanie Morgan.





Describe Samford in  
three words:

Conservative

Republican

close-minded

modest

under-rated

perfect

rich

tough

community

compelling

changing

homey

Grace Perez, Gabriella Prudhomme, Sheronda Simon, Emily Tripp, Rachel Walley,  
Victoria Willis, Michael Heitzke, Dana Kaita, Branden Lower, Caitlin Huie,  
Richard Wangler, Solomon Childers, Jenna Dempski, Rodney Jones, Deanna Kaneshiro,  
Austin Richardson, David Frings, Emily Nichols,  
James Sharpe, Jennifer Weibelt, Tamika Williams.





## SENIOR FAVORITES

### Memories from Vail:

Fire/Hurricane/Tornado drills

Roasting marshmallows over a candle

(shh, don't tell!)

Anything that happened on the 6th Floor

Visitation hours

I look back on those and laugh,

Changing keys every time someone lost theirs



Rucker Taylor, Ellen Cantley, Christy Daniel, Roger Dobnikar, Kimberly Dobrava,  
Jennifer Epperson, Lauren Gough, Pamela Yau, Jason Bonner, Katina Cephus,  
Seung Cheon, Madonna Choat,  
Tammy Dunn, Frances Finney.





Janet Hagood, Harold Jackson,  
Johnathon Shelby, Mandy Wesson,  
Emma Louie, Lindsey Redmon,  
Enslen Crowe, Haley Hogan, Jabeka Macklin, Marion McQuaid, Marcus Onodera.



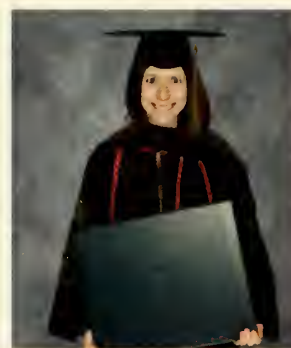








# Friday May Graduates



Casey Adkins, Jeffrey Aller, Kelly Argo, Daphne Arthur, Sara Austin,  
Daniel Baker, Kimberly Banner, Katherine Birchfield, Sarah Blackman, Michael Boaz,  
Temeka Borden, Tyler Bowen, Megan Boyett, Mary Brewer, Jean Bright,  
Sarah Brooks, Marilyn Brown, Vanessa Brown, Easton Bryant, Ryan Budislich.





What was the advice  
you've received in your  
college years?

Don't regret anything;  
it makes you who you are.

Enjoy it while you can.

Make the most of it;

it goes by fast.

Learn who you are.  
more often.

Do what you want,  
not what others want  
you to do.

Skip class

You can sleep when it's over.

Go balls out.

Don't give up; you will get there!

Go to Convo as a freshman.

Heather Bunch, Katy Butler, Jennifer Byrd,  
Jina Chen, Anna Copeland, Jacob Creel,  
Rebecca Cripps, Nicholas Dawson, Derek Dean,  
Tivanka Desliva, Laura Dimpere, Maury Donovan, Weston Dungan, April Dunne,  
Lauren Elder, Brittany England, Stephanie Esslinger, Erin Estell, Amanda Etienne.





Diane Leigh Fordham, Jonathan Fowler, Sarah Frerman, Brian Fullbright, Randi Gardner,  
 Christy Garmon, Allison Garrard, Andrea Gerwin, Jennifer Gipson, Sarah Evan Godfrey,  
 Shantel Willis, Amanda Hamil, Catherine Henderson, Rachel Higginbotham, Kristen Hines,  
 Heath Hogge, Ryan Hollingsworth, Amber Hollowell, Brandi Hooper, Joanna Hulsey,  
 Natalie Hunley, Kristen Hutchinson, Justin Indihan, Leah Johnson, Jerri Ann Joplin.





## SENIOR FAVORITES Samford Meal:

**salads**

Chicken Finger Monday

Sunday Brunch

Any day breakfast at  
Samford

*Honey chicken*

Anna Kelley, Adam Key, Jaclyn Kirkpatrick, Jennifer Knight, Mary Kuniya,  
Joshua Lee, Melanie Leonard, Timothy Lightsey, Rebecca Mangino, Brooke McDaniel,  
Caitlin McDonald, Helyn McLain, Kara Sherlin McNair,  
Adam Moller, Kali Moller, Bradley Nall,  
Robert Nipper, Kimberly Okunbor, Sarah Page, Amanda Parsons, Jennifer Partin.





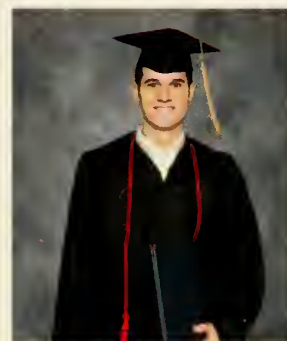
Richard Pate, John Pendley, Amanda Perrone, John Paul Peterson, Amy Pigott,  
 Jessica Popham, Beau Rader, Kelly Ratliff, Douglas Rodenberry, Ashley Rosser,  
 Savanna Sharp, Andrea Smith, Zachery Somers, Alexander Sprouce, Emily Stanly,  
 Kari Stephens, Anna Strickland, Sondra Tashie, Cassie Thomas, Jenny Todd,  
 Amanda Toyer, Sara Traylor, Daniel Truelove, Misty Turmero, Carla Veronese.



# SENIOR FAVORITES

## Memories from Smith:

The time a guy fell asleep in the shower  
and flooded part of our floor  
The time campus safety woke everyone  
up to check for the streaker  
Late nights with the guys  
Vandalizing the car that got to park in the  
spot right in front of the building  
Room checks



Lanie Walters, Lindsey Watkins,  
Brittney Wilder, Curt Willett,  
Matthew Williams, Samantha Winebarger, Steve Wood, Whitney Woodall, Amanda Worshum,  
Allison Yates, Rebecca Mosley, William Andrews, Justin Baughn, Williams Bennett,  
Andrew Bocchino, Patrick Brown, Courtney Cameron, Kevin Sermeno, Lee Craft.



# SENIOR FAVORITES

## Run-ins with Campus Safety:

Free rides at 3 in the morning

The time they booted my car until I paid off my tickets

Being handed a ticket as I got into my car in 15 minute parking (after being there for 11 minutes)

Calling them to pick me up from the overflow parking lot every time it rained

The fake gunman on campus

When I they came to my aid after I had my very first wreck in Beeson Woods!

The time they tackled me from the bushes outside the Residence Halls



Courtney Davis, Kathryn Davis,  
Jordan Delass, Joseph Echols,  
Landon Eckhardt, Genevieve Eller,  
Ryan Fitzgerald, Jonathan Flowers, Christopher George, Samuel Gilbert, Megan Gotlz,  
David Hancock, Michael Hanson, Kyle Hawley, Carrie Heidbrier, Tori Hilderbrand.





John Jansen, Belinda Johnson, Bradley Johnson, Darrell Kent, Kyle Kienitz,  
 Michael Krobach, James Lee, Joshua Meeks, Matthew Mogle, Anne Morel,  
 Andrew Neuberger, Sara Nuxol, Allison Nyghard, Amanda Pearson, Michael Pitts,  
 Jeffrey Reburn, Emmalee Reed, Joel Shaw, Kyle Skiera, Curtis Smith,  
 Amy Steinhouse, Robert Trotter, Brad Venard, Andrew Villarreal, Jessica Walsh.





What was the number **1**  
thing you gained from  
attended Samford?

my degree

real-life

experiences

*life long friends*

a sense of Self

my Husband

education

Accomplishment

Michael Wheeler, Pamela Williams, Heather Willis, Daniel Bowles, Brad Booth,  
Kim Davey, Natalie Hix, Stephanie Hogue, Jaclyn Kirkpatrick, Gary Lacy,  
Hannah Lansdon, Melissa McReynolds,  
Edgar Nunez, Jameela Pickens,  
Erin Rahn, Mark Robinson, Michael Rutledge, Michael Schwab, Jacob Simmons.





Larry Young, Joy Almassaad, Noele Anderson, Alice Bagby, Jessica Black,  
 Ashley Bourke, Anna Brawner, Carole Brisby, Elle Cockerham, Jamie Driggers,  
 Kacy Dunaway, Jennifer Gill, Candace Gullung, Lindsay Harter, Lauren Heinz,  
 Allison Herrington, Camille Karst, Laura Kearney, Laura Logan, Kristin Lowery,  
 Jennifer Mann, Emily Mills, Rebecca Parker, Trinity Power, Benjamin Sidwell.



# Pick one song to describe your Samford experience:

I don't know

something about maturity

Don't Leave Just Yet

Needtobreathe

Break it Out

Rocket Summer

Weekend Warriors

A Change of Pace

Fergilious

Fergie

Wagon Wheel

Old Crow Medicine Show

Help!

the Beatles

Here's to the Night

Eve 6

Show Me What I'm Looking For

Carolina Liar

Spice Up Your Life

Spice Girls

How Far We've Come

Matchbox Twenty

Hanging Around

Counting Crows

Freak Out

Avril Lavigne

Grace Kelly

Mika

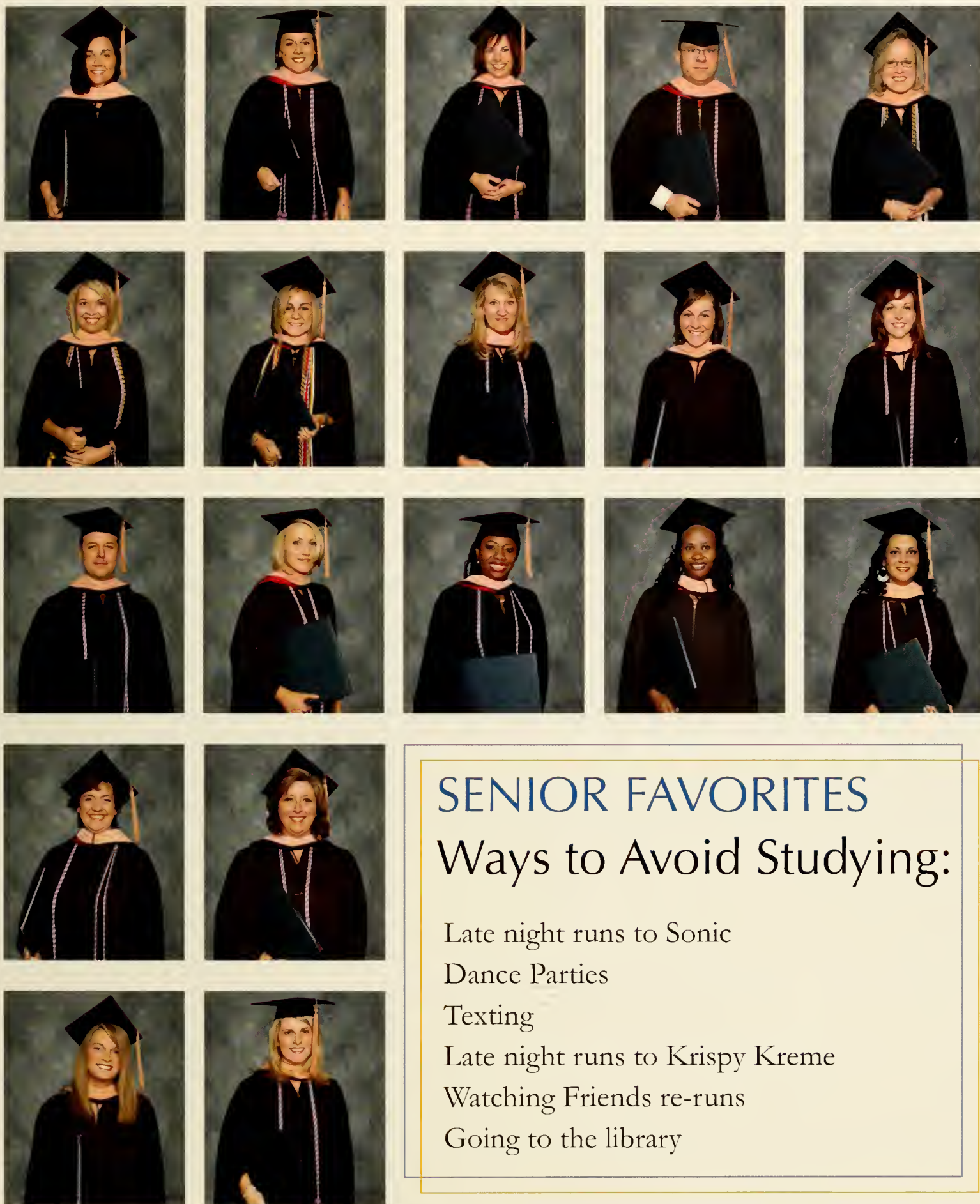
Jesus Take the Wheel

Carrie Underwood



Sarah Sizemore, Brittany Steele, Allison Stewart,  
Cameron Stokes, Jenna Strugill, Jane Thompson,  
Katelyn Tipps, Maria Troche, Elizabeth Van Mol,  
Robin Warren, Calene Wertymer, Kirsten Williams,  
Jennifer Willis, Lindsey Rhea Yates, Deaner Baber.





## SENIOR FAVORITES

### Ways to Avoid Studying:

Late night runs to Sonic

Dance Parties

Texting

Late night runs to Krispy Kreme

Watching Friends re-runs

Going to the library

Kimberly Budisalich, Ronda Bush, Shawneen Oneil Collins, David Costello, Tracey Dick,  
Audrea Dooley, Lindsey Greer, Tracy Grissett, Jennifer Hayes, Stacy Hicks,  
Jeremy Keene, Rebecca Lucado, Ebone Lyons, Eddah Muya, Rachel Noland,  
Amy Ponder, Wendy Riddle,  
Amanda Rogers, Jennifer Satterfield.





## SENIOR FAVORITES

### Memories from Smith:

The time a guy fell asleep in the shower  
and flooded part of our floor

The time campus safety woke everyone  
up to check for the streaker

Late nights with the guys

Vandalizing the car that got to park in the  
spot right in front of the building

Room checks



Lester Sutton, Earnest Agnew, Gail Burns, Rebecca  
Cahill, Gregory Eagerton,  
Sherry Fua, Patricia Hampton, Sela Mann, Jacqueline  
McCoy, Marie Mompont,  
Rebecca Peinhardt, William Pope, Carol Ratcliffe,  
Deborah Rushing, Susan Stillwell,  
Mary Walden, Donna Williams



Describe Samford in  
three words:

Conservative

Republican

close-minded

modest

under-rated

rich

perfect

tough

community

compelling

changing

homey





# Saturday May Graduates



Jenna Edwards, Rachel Frost, Jordan Jones, Carole Miller, Hannah Palmer,  
Elizabeth Sumner, Amy Underwood, Andrew Westover, Kelly Burns, Corley Henderson,  
Bonita Flippo, Donna Guest, Harmonie Adams, Stephani Adams, Katie Almond,  
Paul Anderson, Sarah Andrews, Bryan Baker, Rachell Bennett, Daniel Blackburn.





What Bible verse would  
you use to sum up your  
Samford experience?

John 11:35

Jeremiah 29:11

Hebrews 11:1

Philippians 2:14-15

Joshua 1:9

Romans 3: 20-26

Psalms 37:4

Proverbs 18:24

Psalms 121: 1-2

Gregory Boggs, Sarah Kate Boltz, Josh Bowers,  
David Bowman, Erin Bradford, Emily Cargile,  
Courtney Carnes, Kyle Castles, Leah Chapman,  
Megan Christians, Lindsay Clark, Megan Coats, Carolyn Coley, Katherine Colon,  
Mark Cook, Casey Cooper, Jeanne Cross, Jenifer Davell, Drew Davis.





William Deal, Allyson Dewell, Gilbert Dickey, Callan Donoho, David Dunn,  
 Brian Dushock, Emily Ellett, Haylee Ellis, Jameson Farmer, Andy Farmer, Whitney Farmer,  
 John Fawcett, James Fenwick, Lindsey Fine, Jonathan Fowler, Courtney Frazier,  
 Bethany Gibson, Melissa Gibson, Anna Gilbreath, Katie Gilespeie, Chelsea Gilliland,  
 Emmalyn Goad, Britney Griffin, Adrienne Hampton, Ansley Hamrick, William Haney.





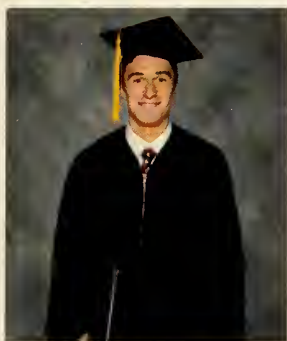
Lisa Hart, Haley Heckman, Jena Hippensteel, Phillip Hoffman, Jodi Hughes,  
 Lauren Hughston, Elizabeth Hunt, Jacqueline Jaszcz, Natalie Jayne, Lacey Jenkins,  
 Caroline Johnson, Gaines Johnson, Laura Johnston, Oliver Jones, Michelle Kelly,  
 Val Kikkert, Lauren Little, Rachel Long, Megan Lozner, Susan Macfarland,  
 Gerald Mahaffey, Lauren McCaslin, Haley McLaughlin, Katherine McMath, Sarah McMilion.





Ashley McQuaig, Miranda Meadows, Grant Millsaps, Malika Moore, Takesha Morgan,  
 John Murnane, Caitlin Murphree, Natalie Nations, Michael Nelson, Katie Nickerson,  
 Jessica Nix, Samuel Noone, Allison Nygard, Jessica Parmenter, Paige Pritchett,  
 Rachael Quinn, Erin Ramsey, Nancy Rhea, Marcus Rice, Amy Robertson,  
 Rebecca Roebuck, Jacob Rogers, Dylan Scroggins, Cameron Searcy, Kyle Seckinger.





## How have you left your legacy at Samford?

I went here - that is enough.

*Head Baseball Belle*

my blood, sweat & tears are in the JMC lab.

By saying 'Hello' to everyone I pass on Campus.

I carved my initials into every tree on the Quad.

campus safety ... they know me by name.

I was more focused on Samford leaving its legacy on me.

I changed people's lives.  
People wanted to be me.



Miriam Selph, Renan Silveira, Paul Sloderbeck, Young-Bin Song, Brittany Stancombe,  
Grace Stephens, Aubrey Stoner, Alice Strawbridge, Kayla Strawbridge, Kathryn Tawbush,  
Marissa Taylor, Brittany Tedford,  
Brittany Thompson, Nathan Troost,  
Lauren Vandiver, Lindsey Vaughan.



# SENIOR FAVORITES

## Samford Event:

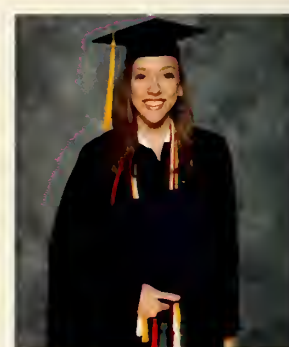
Step Sing

Inauguration Ball

Movies on the Quad

Samford in Spain

Homecoming



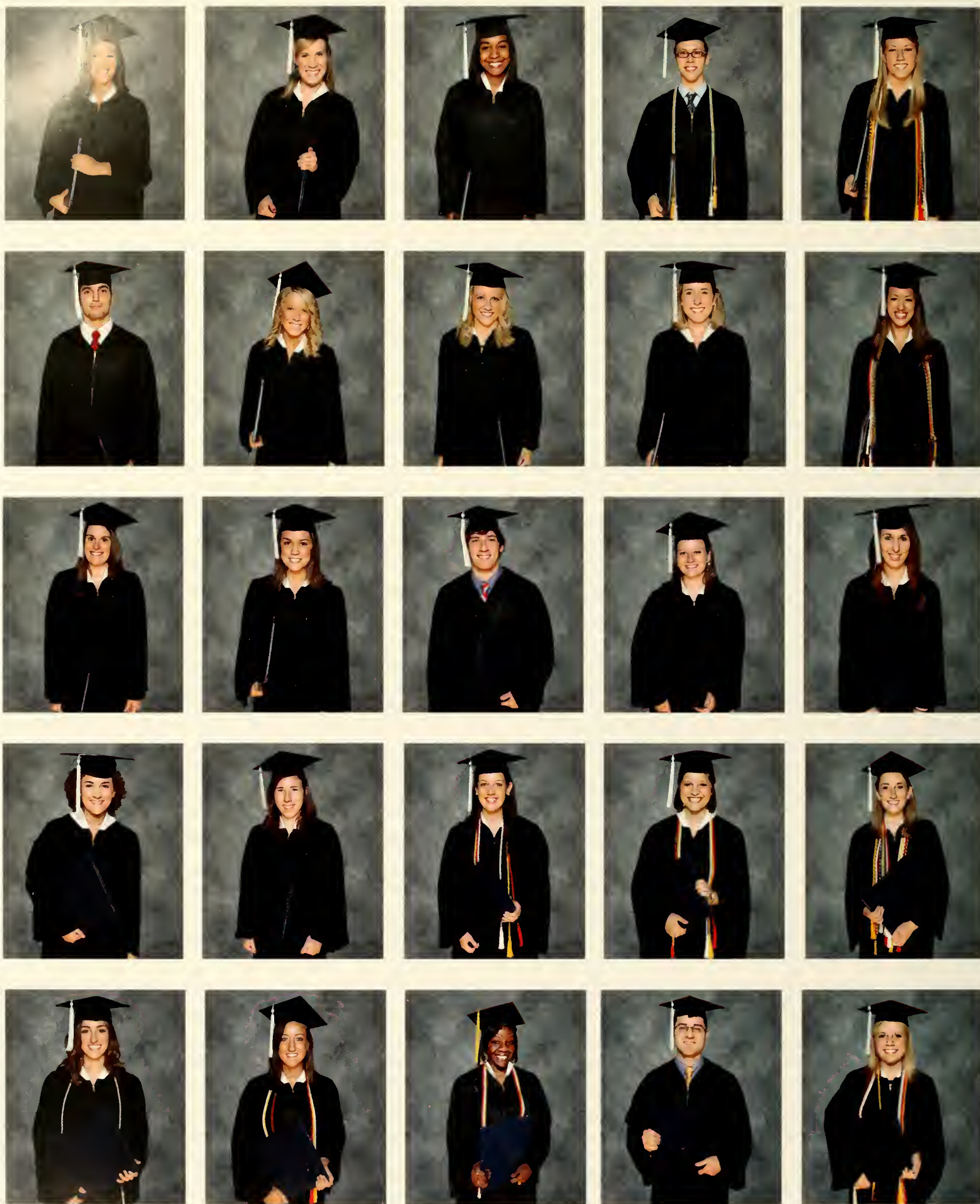
Jennifer Vinson, Jeff Walker, Andrew Walworth,  
William Weaver, Matthew Webb, Ruth Weil,  
John Ward Weiss, Robert Wells, Curtis West, Pamela Williams, Barbara Wilson,  
Catherine Wilson, Rebekah Wood, Kevin Yancey, Rocklin Alling, Mallory Barnes,  
Gregory Brazda, Nathan Carroll, Tamara Cleveland, Elliott Dansby, Haley David.





Colin Durham, Brett Elam, Sarah Fort, Rachel Gamble, Kara Graves,  
 Allison Guyton, Lana Hall, Kylie Harmon, Caroline Herman, Oliver Holmes,  
 Matthew Kemp, Stephanie Larson, Jacob Lyon, Joseph Macon, Laura Matthews,  
 Jenee McBee, Kyle Morton, Peyton Mosley, Madeleine Mula, Melissa Plash,  
 Abigail Robinson, Lee Ross, Meredith Rutledge, Joshua Senn, Bethany Serafin.





Johanna Brandon, Jessica Cheney, Danielle Cloyd, Laudreg Cody, Carrie Coxwell,  
 Samuel Dauphin, Meredith Davis, Angela Dempski, Kareth Dow, Stephanie Elliott,  
 Sara Finley, Kathrine Grigsby, Brandon Hartloge, Carrie Jones, Erin Lewis,  
 Casey Matthews, Natalie Mayor, Elizabeth Moore, Mallory Morgan, Halley Morris,  
 Megan Morris, Kellie O'Connell, Chika Okoli, Matthew Patton, Ashley Reese.





If you could do your time over again, what would you change?

I wouldn't take everything so seriously.

Spend more time with friends.

Change my major.

More road trips.

I would get more involved.

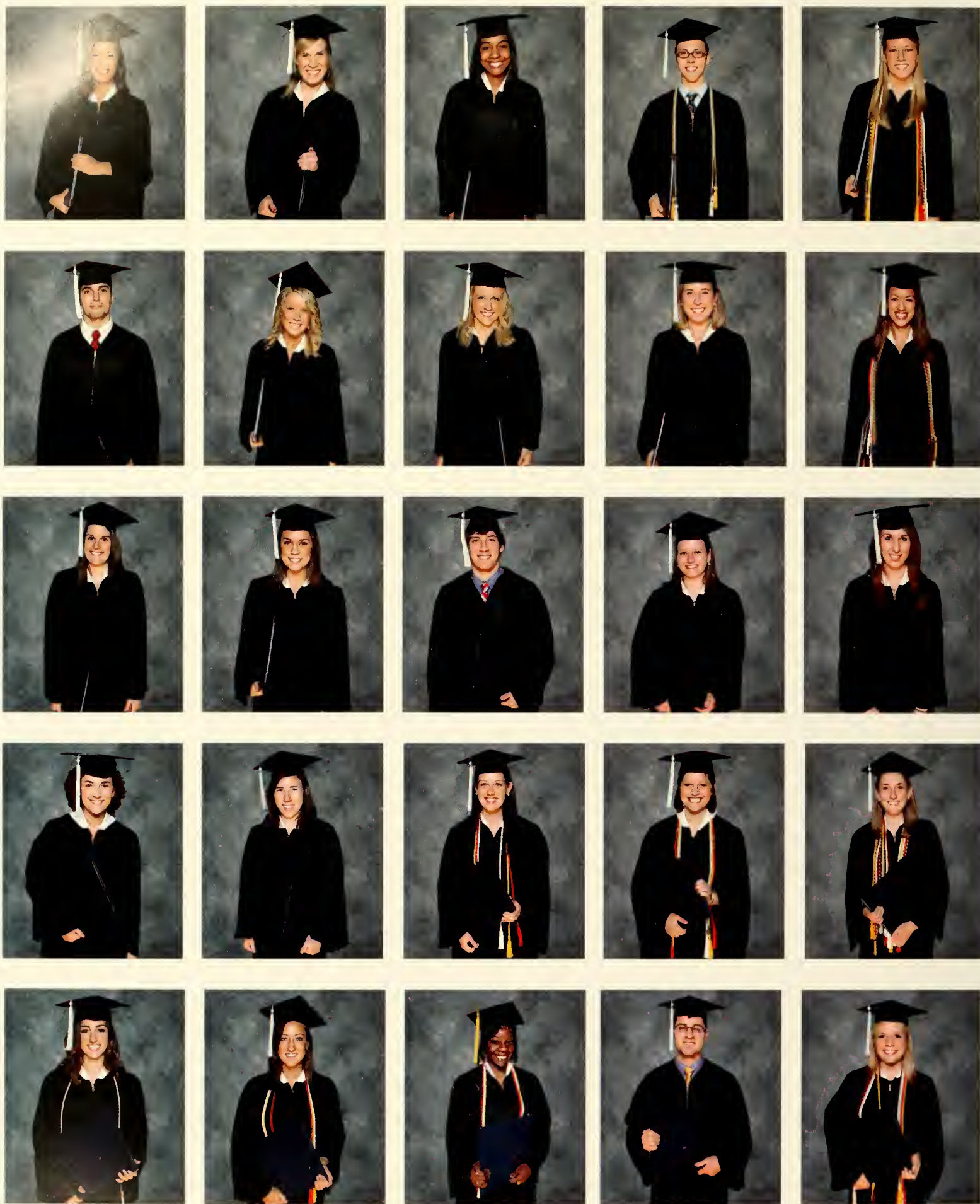
Not fail pharmacology.

I would worry less about the smaller things.

I would break more rules, skip more class, and find out what it's like to get a values violation.

Kayla Reynolds, Rachel Roberts, Dana Sanders, Rodney Shepherd, Emily Sheppard, Emily Smith, Quinton Smith, Stephen Smith, Tommy Smith, Makenzie Spruiell, Jamie Stout, Tangenique Taylor, John Turnipseed, Heather White, Catherine Williams, Dante Williams, Stewart Young.





Johanna Brandon, Jessica Cheney, Danielle Cloyd, Laudreg Cody, Carrie Coxwell,  
 Samuel Dauphin, Meredith Davis, Angela Dempski, Kareth Dow, Stephanie Elliott,  
 Sara Finley, Kathrine Grigsby, Brandon Hartloge, Carrie Jones, Erin Lewis,  
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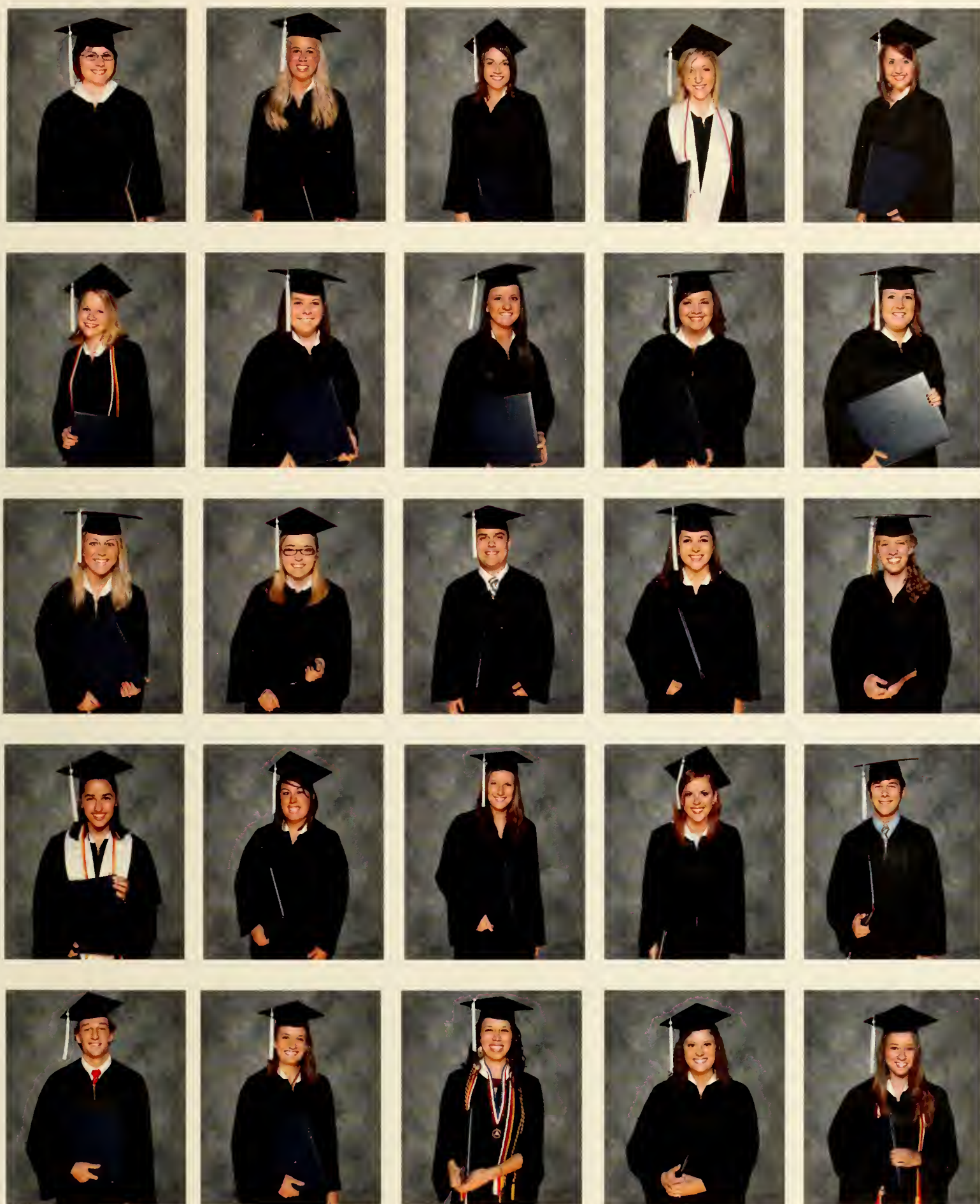
Kayla Reynolds, Rachel Roberts, Dana Sanders,  
Rodney Shepherd, Emily Sheppard, Emily Smith,  
Quinton Smith, Stephen Smith, Tommy Smith,  
Makenzie Spruiell, Jamie Stout, Tanguenique Taylor,  
John Turnipseed, Heather White, Catherine Williams, Dante Williams, Stewart Young.





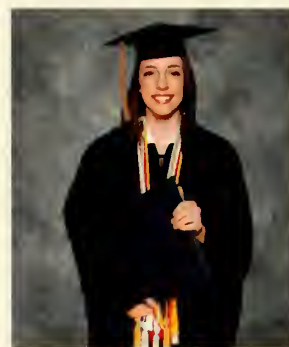
Drew Smith, Karmen Smith, Margaret Spears, Allyn Spikes, Taylor Stroud,  
Mallory Tyler, Madeline Walker, Luke Welty, Alex Wendel, Jonathan Wohlwend,  
Mary Scott Wood, Matthew Zauchin, Vernecia Jones, Jenny Smith, Elizabeth Leslie,  
Laura Morello, Leah Shell, Ruth Amagliani, Craig Newton, Antonia Littleton,  
Lakeidra Pickett, Christa Tarrance, Kendall Baker, Elizabeth Bonham, Sally Campbell.





Carla Cobb, Caroline Cole, Kelly Fishbein, Morgan Glasscock, Jessie Gordon,  
 Kelli Hepner, Marilee Hutcheson, Amy Kanute, April Lambiotte, Samantha Lightle,  
 Emily McCabe, Tiffany Payne, Michael Phillips, Caroline Poole, Kristin Riley,  
 Stephanie Shoemaker, Emily Sites, Kirstein Sosnowski, Laura Vierling, Timothy Ansley,  
 Steven Baker, Kristin Bartsokas, Rebekah Beaty, Victoria Beckham, Kelly Biddle.





Morgan Montague, Shelby Patton,  
Kelli Winn, Rachel Emery,  
Sadie Frazier, Cassidy Jordan.

What was the most challenging thing about attending Samford?      Learning to balance my time.

Sharing a room.

Being away from home.

Learning to accept that things change.

Letting go of childish ideals.

Staying in school long enough to graduate.

classes

trying to find the right niche.

Doing my own laundry!





Haley Longino, Murphy Maddox, Lydia Myers, Andrew Scollard, Colleen Shrader,  
 Jessica Terry, Richard Watts, Amy Douglas, John Hart, Megan Marr,  
 Jessika Mejia, Jamie Posniak, Deborah Schooler, Jessica Snow, Jonathan Wade,  
 Berkley King, Erica Knight, Jaquoyah McDaniel, Shani Washington, Maria Beard,  
 Tamika Bibb, Delvetra Calvin-hill, Melissa Ellett, Elizabeth Gambrell, Paula Hardy.





## SENIOR FAVORITES Class:

Introduction to Food Prep

Yoga

Recreational Sports,

Sociology, Spanish 101 in Spain

Theater Appreciation,

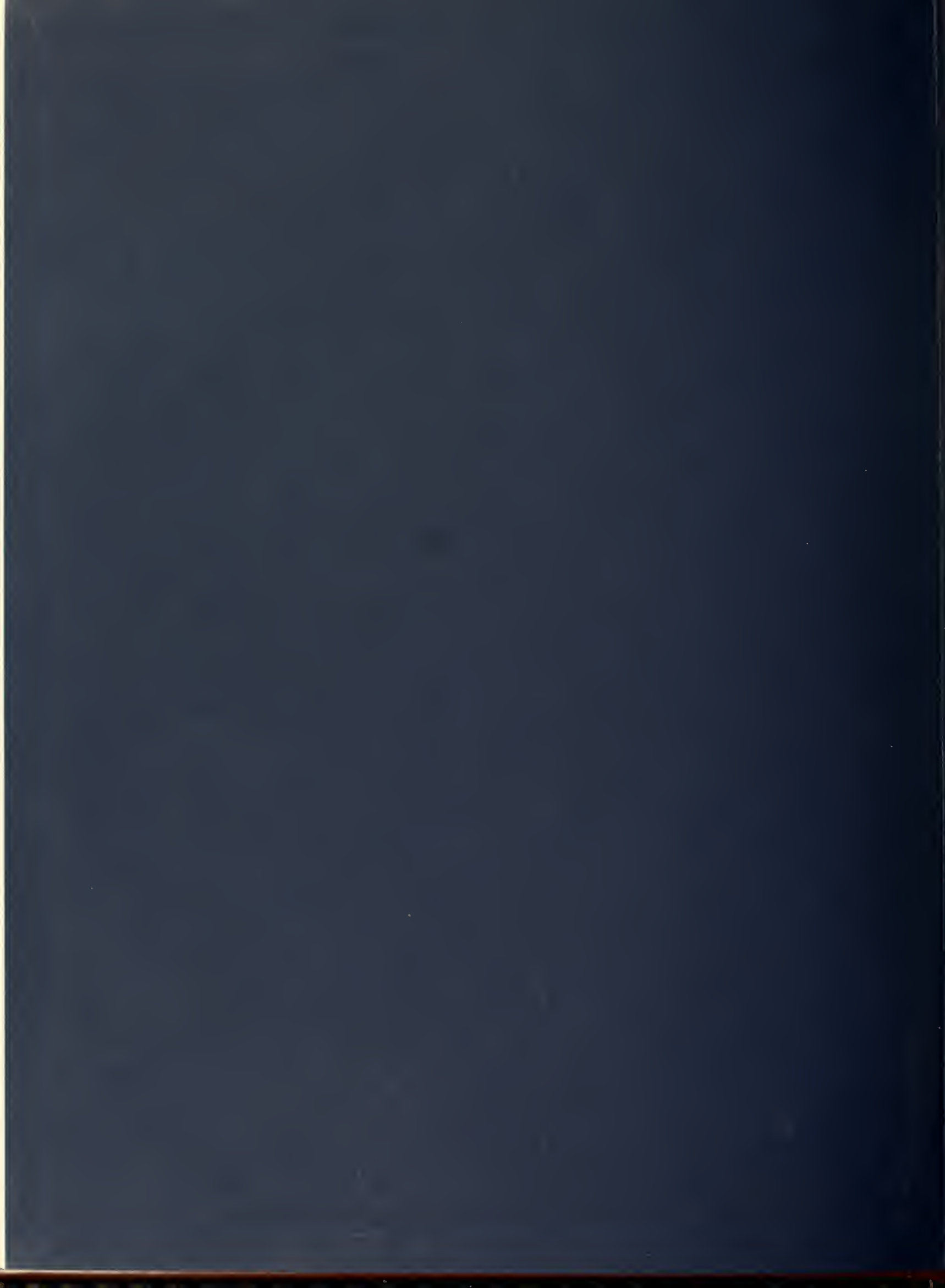
Film and Fiction

Cynthia Hipp, Susan Long, Cari Redwine, Robert Becklean, Rachel Meeks,  
Justin Ward, Rachel Holland, Kathryn Hoppe-mcqueen, Robert Pendergraft, Emily Hallman,  
Marla Vaughn, Sheila Barnes, Kelly Brooksher, Martha Child, Kevin Higgins,  
Richard Hurnik, Rebecca Robinson,  
Stephanie Robinson, William Scott, Gary Limmroth.

















*Grow* in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
2 Peter 3:18